

ACTIVITY TIME!!!

Activity

In the story, we read how Mary anoints (puts expensive oil on) Jesus's body. It was the Jewish custom, or tradition, to anoint a body in preparation for burial. Mary heard people were suspicious of Jesus and his mission. Mary's anointing was a sign she understood Jesus was soon going to die.

Mary spent a lot of money buying the best oil. What does this tell us about Mary's relationship with Jesus?

Talk about other cultural burial practices. For example, the Egyptians built coffins, called sarcophagi, and wrapped bodies into mummies. The Vikings believed boats symbolized safe passage to the afterlife and built special boats for the dead. Before the burial, Vikings would set the body and boat on fire in a funeral pyre.

Every culture has different funeral customs. What funeral traditions have you heard of or experienced?

Mary honored Jesus using her cultural burial practices. Before this story takes place, Mary's brother, Lazarus, died, and Jesus raised him back to life. Mary had proof to believe death couldn't stop Jesus from his mission. Even though Jesus rose, we still honor his death during Lent. Let's honor his death and celebrate his life using one of our burial practices.

Choose any of the funeral practices mentioned in the conversation. Eulogies are a simple choice. A eulogy is a speech where people tell stories about their loved one who died and their life. What would you say in a eulogy about Jesus? You could mention how he was born, his parents, how he healed people and shared the good news, or how he loved all people regardless of their money or power.

Let participants take turns doing the chosen practice or giving a eulogy, individually or in small groups. Alternatively, you can ask prompting questions to guide participants.

Alternate Activity

Materials:

Art supplies, Paper, Wall or poster to display, pictures

Read the storybook version of today's reading. Mary put oil on Jesus because she believed he would die soon. In her culture, people honored the dead with oil.

A popular practice at funerals in America is to make a display of pictures of the best or most important times in a person's life to show everyone at the funeral. ***Let's make a display for Jesus!***

Let's start with Jesus' birth. Remember the manger, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and angels? ***Who can draw that?***

After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph became refugees and went to Egypt in the middle of the night to hide from King Herod. ***Can someone draw that?***

Who were Jesus' friends? He spent time with people who were poor or sick, children, and people who didn't know about God. ***Let's draw Jesus with his friends.***

Let's draw Jesus' miracles! He healed people, he made food for people, and he helped people who were sad or alone. ***Let's draw that too!***

Continue until all participants are drawing. Hang finished pictures on a display. ***How do the pictures help us remember Jesus' life?***