

# A Smelly Story



## Find

- Mark who is helping to tell the Easter Story.
- A bottle of perfume to place behind Mark.
- Four Smelly objects in tubs i.e. chocolate, coffee, orange, sock!
- Blindfolds

## Introduce

- Introduce Mark, a boy who has been on an Easter adventure - he will help us to explore our Easter story today. Invite a child to come and look what Mark has hidden (*they will find the perfume you have hidden there*).
- Ask the children why they think Mark has perfume in his bag? What part of the Easter story do they think it is a clue to, why do people wear perfume?
- Jesus spent a lot of time with lots of different people, going into their homes, eating with them and teaching them about God. It was tradition in Jesus time that the men and women would eat separately, that the women served the men before eating themselves. However meals with Jesus were a bit different and he treated all people the same men and women. Jesus let the women listen to him as well as the men. This made him different.
- There was one occasion when a woman named Mary came to Jesus while he was eating in a house, and the Bible says she cracked open a bottle of really expensive perfume over Jesus.

## Play

- **Smelly Test**
- Today's assembly is about a story involving perfume so we are going to start by playing a smelly game.
- *Invite three people and one teacher to the front to take part in the smelly test. Explain that you are going to blindfold them and then put in front of them some smelly things. One at a time reveal the smelly items to the school and then allow the blindfolded volunteers to smell the items. Next ask the volunteers if they can guess what it is they have smelt. Give a prize or team point for each one they get right.*



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## Talk

Why do we think Mary tipped the perfume over Jesus?

The perfume Mary poured over Jesus was really expensive; it would have cost her lots of money. She was probably giving to Jesus the most precious thing she owned.

At the time when Mary did this, the people in Jerusalem had already started to plot to kill Jesus. Religious leaders of the day were asking Jesus lots of questions trying to get him to say something they could arrest him for. It wasn't an easy time for Jesus.

At a time when Jesus was being bullied, Mary gave Jesus the most precious thing she had, to show him that she loved him. To show Jesus that she cared about him, and was a friend that was willing to give up everything for him unlike the religious leaders of the day.

Jesus didn't mind that what she did was a bit messy he understood what she was trying to say to him. That's why although some told Mary off for doing what was a bit of an outrageous thing Jesus said it was beautiful.

In fact Jesus thought it so special that he said to those watching that what she did would always be remembered.

How do you think Mary felt hearing Jesus say in front of all those there that what she did was beautiful? What do you think Mark thought as he watched all this happen?

## Pray

Father God help us when times are tough to look to you for help. We think about all the people we know or we have heard about who need your help today and pray that you will be with them, helping them and caring for them. We also pray that you will give us the eyes to see when people are in need and give us the heart to be willing to help. Amen.

**Classroom follow up:** If possible you could invite a Christian to come in and explain the communion service to the children.

In groups get the children to plan a meal for a special occasion – if you kept it simple they could even make the meal and invite someone special to share it with them.

