



### **Opening Remarks**

After Jesus raised their brother, Lazarus, from death, Mary and Martha threw a party to celebrate and thank him. Mary poured out her fragrant savings [a pint of costly nard] onto Jesus. His feet, her hair, and the entire house smelled of her love and gratitude for a long time. He smelled like perfume all week as he went to Gethsemane, trial, torture and death. Her story was told throughout the early church, and even today as this scripture is read, as an example of extravagant worship. Scripture invites us to contrast her generosity with Judas' greed. Her heart service contrasts his lip service. I hope we find a little of ourselves in Mary.

### **Warm it up**

How do you feel about giving extravagant gifts? How about receiving them?

Which is more attractive to you, spending extravagantly on worship services for Jesus, or extravagant generosity to the poor?





6] What would it look like for you to worship like Mary did? Interested?

7] Can you think of any areas of your own life where you identify with Judas? Jesus?

8] What connection between worship and generosity to the poor have you noticed in your own life?

**Pray it through**

Pray the Lord's Prayer together in light of this passage.

