



**John 12:1–8**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

**Proverbs 15:8**

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked,  
but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

**Proverbs 15:8**

What does sacrificial giving look like in this day and time? We read about it in Scripture, but how does it translate into today's society? Have you ever considered matching your gift to missions and/or mission ventures with the amount you spend on Christmas gifts to family members each year? What about reducing the amount you spend each year at Christmas by half, giving the other half to missions? What if this became a decision you made together as a family? Would this be a form of sacrificial giving?

Read John 12:1–8. Jesus was unopposed to Mary's elaborate expression of her love for Him. This was obviously expensive perfume that she was using on Jesus' feet. But Jesus saw this for what it was, an expression of love and not pretense.

How often do we find the opportunity to lavish people with love, not worrying about its expense, but having more concern for them than us?

This was an unselfish action. Jesus knew this. He also knew that Mary was closer to understanding the nature of the Kingdom of God than most. In God's Kingdom, giving was extravagant, not for show, but for the sake of love. Jesus was God's extravagant gift to us.

Here's the challenge: Come up with a plan for being proactive in giving sacrificially. Ask your kids to participate in coming up with ideas. You'll see just how unselfish they can be when it comes to giving, and expressing love and compassion.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

First, each family member takes a moment to think of his or her most valuable possession. Then, each person shares with the rest of the group what is his or her prized possession. Next, a family member asks: **Let's think of the types of things important enough for us to sacrifice our prized possessions.** After brainstorming a list, one person reads: **Today we'll look at a picture of great sacrifice.**

### Explore . . .

First, a family member reads John 12:1–8. Then, someone reads: **Put yourself in Jesus' place. If you had been Him in that moment, what might you have said to Mary as she poured expensive perfume all over your feet? Why do you think Jesus didn't stop Mary after Judas made his comment? What do you think was Jesus' hidden message behind His words? How does this act symbolize what Jesus would ultimately do for us?**

### Transform . . .

The family discusses: **What might have Jesus' followers present that day have learned through this entire experience? It's possible that they did not understand Jesus' words at that moment, but later they would know just how extravagant Jesus' gift to them would be—His own life. How should this change our approach in ways we give back to God, expressing our love?**

*Pray that your family members will understand what it means to give, sacrificially. Pray that they will experience the joy that comes with this act.*