

Practice for Prayer

Anointing with Oil: Beloved Child of God

Have someone from your group read the story: "In Memory of Her" and another google **Jesus anointed with Oil Images**. Share story and pictures.

There is a story that rabbis (leaders in the Jewish faith) tell. The story tells who we are as human beings. The rabbis say that every person always has two pockets. In one pocket is dirt. When we put our hand in the pocket holding the dirt we remember that we are human, that in time we will die, and that sometimes we fail to act with love and respect. In the other pocket is a vial of perfumed oil. When we put our hand in the pocket with the oil we remember that we are human, a beloved child of God.

The woman in the story who anointed Jesus with oil recognized Jesus as a beloved child of God. So are you.

Take turns dipping a finger in the oil and making the sign of the cross in the palms of the hands of others in your group. As you do, say his or her first name and tell the person that he or she is a beloved child of God.

Holy Week is a time we remember that nothing, nothing can separate us from God and God's love. You are a beloved child of God.

In Memory of Her

Mark 14:3-9

Jesus was in the town of Bethany, in the home of Simon.

He was sitting at a table and some of his disciples were with him.

While he was sitting there a woman came in with an expensive bottle.

In the bottle was some very precious perfumed oil.

The women opened the bottle and poured the oil on Jesus, anointing him.

Some of the disciples were angry.

They said, "Why did she waste the oil like this? She could have sold it for a lot of money and we could have given it to the poor people."

And so they spoke against her.

But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has done a beautiful thing to me."

Then Jesus said, "There will always be poor people, and you can always do good things for them."

Jesus told his disciples. "She has anointed my body now for the time I will be buried.

Then Jesus gave his disciples a command. "I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."