

Life Group Leader Guide

Believe and Be Changed: *At the Feet of Jesus*

Date: February 8, 2026
John 12:1–8

Icebreaker:

- What's a smell that instantly brings back a memory for you?

Sermon Recap

Last week, we saw Jesus as the resurrection and the life when He raised Lazarus. This week, we step into a dinner party in Bethany where Jesus and Lazarus are the guests of honor.

Mary's story shows us three postures **at the feet of Jesus**:

1. Mary **learns** at His feet (Luke 10)
2. Mary **grieves** at His feet (John 11)
3. Mary **worships** at His feet (John 12)

What is learned in Jesus' presence is often tested in suffering and ultimately expressed through worship.

Read John 12:1–8 (ESV)

Revelation (Who Is Jesus?)

1. What stands out to you most about Mary's actions in John 12?
2. Why do you think Jesus so strongly defends Mary's worship?
3. How does this passage reveal Jesus' worth?

Leader Insight: Worship begins with revelation, seeing Jesus clearly.

Application (What Is God Inviting Me to Do?)

Learning at His Feet

Read **Luke 10:39–42**

- What does it look like, practically, to "sit at the feet of Jesus" today?
- What distractions tend to pull you away from that posture?

Grieving at His Feet

Read **John 11:32**

- What does Mary's grief show us about how Jesus responds to pain?
- Have you ever experienced Jesus meeting you in disappointment or unanswered questions?

Transformation (How Am I Changed?)

Costly & Unrestrained Worship

- Mary's worship involved tears, dignity, and finances.
- Why do you think unrestrained worship often makes people uncomfortable?
- What tends to hold us back from worship that costs us something?

Read **Luke 7:47**

- How does awareness of forgiveness affect the way we worship?
- In what ways might our worship "shrink" when we forget our need for grace?

Leader Insight: We never worship beyond our awareness of our need for Jesus.

Discussion: Fragrance & Obedience

Read **John 12:3**

- Why do you think John includes the detail that the house was filled with fragrance?
- What kind of "fragrance" does obedience produce in a home, a group, or a church?

Contrast:

- **Offerings with obedience** (Genesis 8:21)
- **Offerings without obedience** (Isaiah 1:13)
- Why is surrender more pleasing to God than sacrifice alone?
- Where might God be inviting you to align worship with obedience?

Gospel Connection (Hope & Assurance)

Read **Ephesians 5:1–2**

- How does knowing Jesus is the ultimate "pleasing aroma" free us from fear or performance?
- How does this truth help when obedience feels intimidating or incomplete?

Key Truth: When the Father smells us, He smells Jesus.

Multiplication: Living It Out

1. How might authentic worship influence the spiritual atmosphere of your home or workplace?
2. Who might notice the "fragrance" of a surrendered life this week?
3. What's one simple step of obedience God is highlighting for you right now?