Preschool–Grade 5

Mary Anoints Jesus Craft

The house filled with the odour · John 12:1–8 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



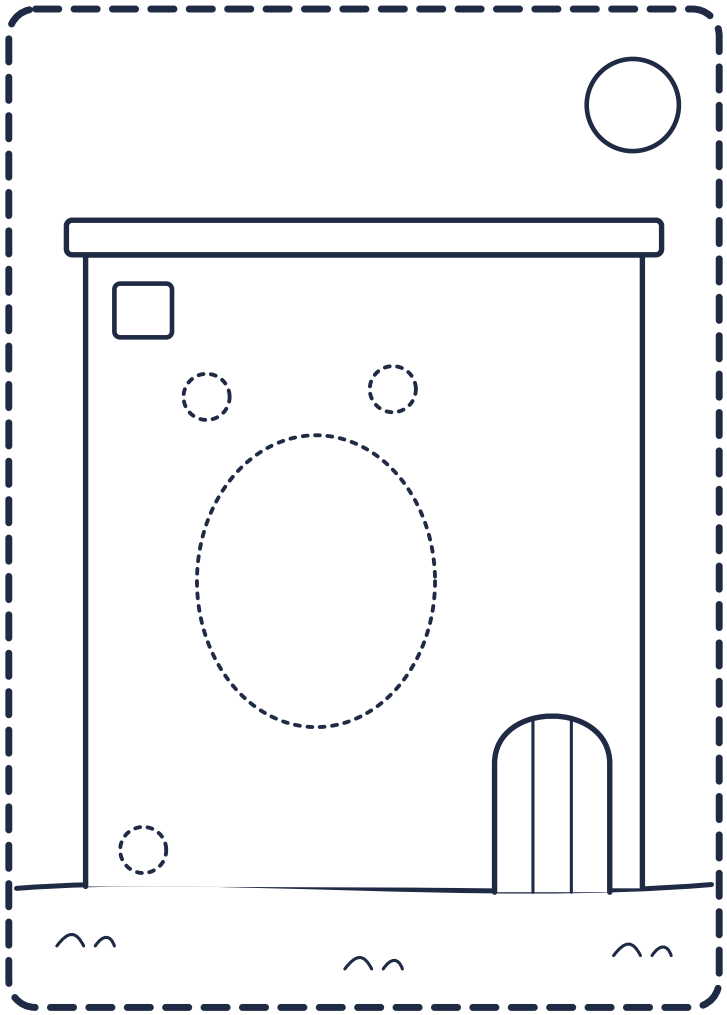
Harder

Both levels are a tall card: a light blue sky with a yellow sun, a light brown house with a flat dark brown roof, a dark brown door and little window, and green ground. In the yellow window, the child has drawn Mary kneeling. Three light purple swirls sprinkled with cinnamon fill the house with a sweet smell, because "the house was filled with the odour of the ointment" (John 12:3). Medium (left): the house card. Harder (right): the same card with two doors that open on Mary's window.

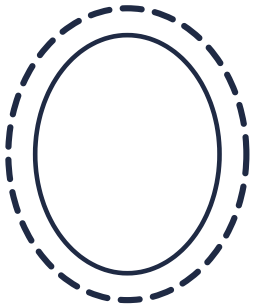
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky light blue, sun yellow, house light brown, roof, door and little window dark brown, ground green. Glue the window on the dotted oval and the round end of a swirl on each dotted circle.



window: frame yellow. Draw Mary kneeling inside.



odour swirls: color them light purple

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

John 12:3 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

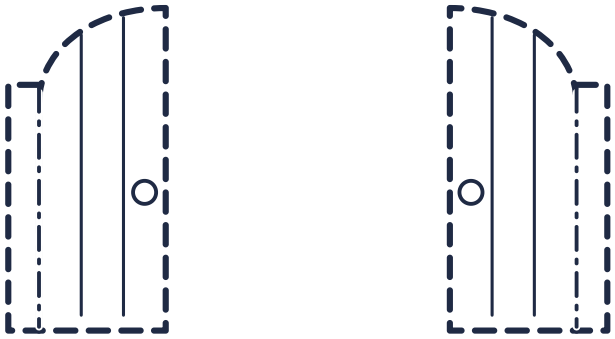
Color each piece the way its label says. Draw Mary in the window. Cut out the card, the window, the three swirls and the verse strip.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Doors for Mary's window (harder level)



doors: light brown, ring handles dark brown. Cut on the dashed lines.
Fold each tab back on its fold line (dashes and dots).

How to add the doors

1. Make the house card from page 2 first, with Mary's window, the three cinnamon swirls and the verse strip on the back of the card.
2. Color the doors light brown and their ring handles dark brown. Cut out each door with its tab on the dashed lines.
3. Fold each tab back on its fold line (dashes and dots), then open it again a little.
4. Put glue only on the back of the left door's tab. Press the tab on the house just left of Mary's window, so the door closes over the left half of the window. Do the same with the right door on the right side. The two doors meet in the middle.
5. Open the doors wide, so they lie flat beside the window and Mary shows inside.
6. Tell it: six days before the passover, Jesus came to Bethany, and they made Him a supper (John 12:1–2). Open the doors: Mary anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair (12:3). Smell the swirls: "the house was filled with the odour of the ointment" (12:3). Jesus said, "Let her alone" (12:7).

VBSHQ

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/mary-anoints-jesus-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light blue, yellow, light brown, dark brown, green and light purple crayons or markers, crayons for drawing Mary, scissors, glue sticks and a small cup of ground cinnamon. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the window, the three swirls and the verse strip. Ask about allergies before using the cinnamon.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's card, window, swirls and verse strip. Kids color the pieces, draw Mary in the window, glue the window and the swirls on the card, and sprinkle the cinnamon. Glue the verse strip on the back for them.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut out and glue the pieces themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the house card like the medium level. Then add the two doors from page 3 beside Mary's window, so they open and close. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the card:** the sky light blue, the sun yellow, the house light brown, the roof, the door and the little window dark brown, and the ground green.
2. **Color the pieces:** the window frame yellow and the three odour swirls light purple.
3. **Draw:** in the window, draw Mary kneeling, with her long hair and a long dress.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the window, the three swirls and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Glue:** glue the window on the dotted oval, and the round end of each swirl on a dotted circle.
6. **Sweet smell:** rub the glue stick along the curly line of each swirl. Sprinkle a pinch of cinnamon on it and shake off the extra.
7. **Verse:** turn the card over. Glue the verse strip on the back and read it together.
8. **Tell it:** point to Mary and say, "Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus." Then smell the swirls and say, "the house was filled with the odour of the ointment" (John 12:3).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- In what town did Mary, Martha and Lazarus live? *(Bethany, John 11:1)*
- When did Jesus come to Bethany? *(Six days before the passover, 12:1)*
- What did they make for Jesus? *(A supper, 12:2)*
- What did Martha do? *(She served, 12:2)*
- Who sat at the table with Jesus? *(Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead, 12:1–2)*
- Point to Mary. What did she take? *(A pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, 12:3)*
- What did she do with it? *(She anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair, 12:3)*
- Smell the swirls. What filled the house? *(The odour of the ointment, 12:3)*
- Who complained, and what did he say? *(Judas Iscariot: "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?" 12:4–5)*
- What did Jesus say? *("Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this," 12:7)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: ointment** is a sweet-smelling oil; **spikenard** is the kind of ointment Mary had; **very costly** means it cost a lot; **anointed** means poured it on; **odour** means smell.
- **What the Bible says:** John 12 doesn't describe the house in Bethany, its roof or its colors, and it names no box or jar for the ointment, only "a pound of ointment" (12:3). The house, the swirls and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story. The Bible names spikenard with cinnamon among "the chief spices" (Song of Solomon 4:14); we use cinnamon only so the craft smells sweet.
- **Drawing Mary:** kids draw her in the window, kneeling, with her long hair and a long dress. The craft doesn't print any people.
- **Cinnamon:** ask about allergies first. Keep the cinnamon in a cup with a small spoon, and shake the extra off over a paper plate or the trash can.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child smell the swirls and say, "I can give Jesus my best!"
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Mary anoints Jesus lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/mary-anoints-jesus.

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