



**BIG IDEA**

We can love Jesus extravagantly.

**JOHN | EXTRAVAGANT | WEEK 1 OF 4**

# Extravagant

## GOD STORY

Mary Anoints Jesus  
*John 12:1-11*

## KEY VERSE

Lead a life of love, just as  
Christ did. He loved us. He  
gave himself up for us.  
*Ephesians 5:2a (NIRV)*

## LEADER TIPS

- The teaching videos are usually 12 to 15 minutes long. Map out your time and plan accordingly! Make sure you can complete the activity after the video at the very least.
- This week, emphasize the extravagant ways Jesus loves us, and the extravagant ways we can love Jesus.

## My Story

### 1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

Highlight extravagance by chatting about outrageous meals as well as over-the-top things the students have done for other people.

### 2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Guess the prices of a variety of wildly extravagant items, then introduce today's Big Idea.

## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

## My Story

### 4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes\*)

Use a large empty bottle and some perfume to illustrate the story of Mary anointing Jesus, then review it together.

### 5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Explain the importance of fasting and feasting. Consider how the students could do both this Easter season.

## Our Story

### 6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

\*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



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## My Story

### 1 | Conversation Starter

**SUPPLIES**

- None

**LEADER TIP**

- The Conversation Starter is a great way to make everyone feel welcome and build community! Use it to set the tone for your group's time together.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Welcome the students and gather them together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week is going.
- Ask:
  - What's the most outrageously expensive or extreme food that you've ever eaten?
  - What's the most over-the-top thing you've done for a friend or family member?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their stories with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Point out that these things are extravagant, which means exceeding what is reasonable or necessary.
- Let the students know that we're focusing on extravagant love today.



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## My Story

### 2 | Intro Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- Notecards
- Pens
- Prize

#### BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- If possible, find photos of the items listed below, which you can show to the students.

#### LEADER TIP

- This activity could also be done in teams.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Give each person a notecard and a pen.
- b. Let the students know that you're going to describe a series of items. Their job is to guess how much each one costs and write it down. Whoever is closest without going over the actual cost will be awarded a point.
- c. Read aloud the following descriptions (without revealing the prices yet), pausing after each one for the students to write their price guesses:
  - The world's most expensive hamburger is made with Kobe beef, foie gras, and lots of truffles. (\$5,000)
  - The world's most over-the-top dress is made of red taffeta, chiffon, silk, and satin strewn with Swarovski crystals. Seven hundred and fifty diamonds stud its six-metre-long train. (\$30 million)
  - The Rolls-Royce Sweptail is a one-of-a-kind coupe. Its design is based on the brand's classic models as well as the world of super-yachts. It took four years to manufacture. (\$13 million)

- The Reinast Luxury Toothbrush is the most expensive toothbrush on earth because of its design and anti-bacterial coating. (\$4,200)
  - The world's most outrageous shoes were commissioned as a birthday present. These high heels are crafted from platinum, pure gold, and leather. 24-carat-gold paint, costly gemstones, and 18-carat-gold thread are finishing touches. (\$15.1 million)
  - The La Madeline au Truffe contains Valrhona dark chocolate, vanilla, truffle oil, sugar, and cream to make the richest chocolate you will ever taste. (\$2,400 for one box of chocolates)
  - One of the world's most expensive pizzas takes 72 hours to prepare. The dough contains organic Arabian flour and is dusted with Murray River pink salt. Toppings include caviar and lobster. (\$12,000)
- d. Reveal each of the prices and award a point to the person who was closest without going over.
  - e. Give a prize to whoever gets the most points.
  - f. Emphasize the extravagance of these items—they're all totally over the top!
  - g. Highlight the Big Idea: **We can love Jesus extravagantly.**



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## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | Weekly Video

**SUPPLIES**

- Video file

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Mary Anoints Jesus, John 12:1-11)
  - Life Story (Jess was a professional figure skater who travelled the world for her job. She shows us how she chose to love Jesus extravagantly.)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Discuss:
  - What stood out to you in the Life Story? How about the God Story?
  - How do these stories connect with the Big Idea (**We can love Jesus extravagantly**)?
  - What's the Key Verse for the Extravagant series? (The first part of Ephesians 5:2)

## My Story

### 4 | Application Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Bibles
- Large empty bottle
- Perfume or essential oil

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Discuss: Have you ever seen someone do something extravagant for love?
- Explain that when we love someone deeply, extravagant actions may seem normal. We see this in all kinds of relationships.
- Make sure everyone has access to a Bible.
- Guide the students to look up John 12:3-5.
- Read the verses together.
- Hold up the bottle and the perfume.
- Ask everyone to picture a container of perfume that's the size of that bottle. Encourage them to imagine what it smelled like when it was emptied!
- Emphasize that the perfume cost an entire year's wages. Today, that could be over \$30,000!
- Discuss: Do Mary's actions make sense to you? Or do you think Judas was right?
- Read what Jesus says in verses 7-8.
- Discuss the significance of each part of his reply:
  - "Leave her alone."
  - Put Jesus first.
  - We should still care for the poor.
- Explain that Mary's extravagant act makes sense because Jesus was a week away from his death.
- Discuss:
  - If you loved someone who was about to die for you, would it make sense to give them an extravagant gift?
  - In what ways do you show Jesus your love for him? Have you ever loved Jesus extravagantly?



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## My Story

### 5 | Wrap-Up Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Fasting or Feasting cards
- Pens

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Point out that Christians have been doing over-the-top things to show Jesus their love for thousands of years. For example, Christians fast and feast around Easter. These are two ways to show Jesus how much we love him.
- b. Clarify that fasting (called Lent around this time of year) is giving up something for a certain length of time to increase our focus on God. Some people give up favourite foods, whereas others might give up video games or social media. It's not that these things are bad; instead, giving them up helps us remember that we don't need these things as much as we need Jesus.
- c. Explain that feasting involves enjoying God's creation. It's not just eating a lot! Feasting is doing something with other Christians to celebrate and remember what Jesus did for us.
- d. Discuss ideas for how the students could fast or feast this Easter season.
- e. Give each person a card and a pen.
- f. Encourage everyone to write a first step they could try this week.
- g. Pray for one another.

## Our Story

### 6 | Dismissal

**SUPPLIES**

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- c. Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.