A Way Through Lent  
UNIT 5, WEEK 5  
March 13, 2016

POURED OUT FOR YOU (Lent 5)

To experience gifts of outpoured love.

- Set up worship table with purple cloth, Bible, offering basket, candle, and Unit 5 logo (#35).
- Bring a Bible.
- If possible, bring a jar of bath oil that has a sprig of wildflowers and herbs visible in it (or bring regular bath oil, some potpourri, and olive oil). Bring some naturally-scented oil (see Primary Teacher’s Resource Sheet) and cotton balls.
- Bring the Story-way, the stone path and the “campfire” from past weeks.
- Option A: Make copies of activity sheet “Rebus Crossword.”
- Option B: Bring a large envelope or brown paper bag for each child. Bring many strips of paper and scented felt markers and stickers.
- Option C: Bring a clean juice can for each child and magazine pictures of people showing love for one another. Bring strips of blank paper.
- Check the birthday list.
- Pray that each child will feel the outpoured love of God through you so that they can show it to others.

Welcome each child by name and invite one of them to light the candle saying, “We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us.”

Opening Song: “God, We Thank You” (See Primary Teacher’s Resource Sheet.)

Birthdays, Offering (Remind them to bring in coin boxes next week.)

Prayer: O God,
you were with Jesus in the desert.
Be with us, too, during Lent.
Help us to listen for your words to us
as we live through Lent alone and with this group of friends.
We ask that you remember (name everyone in the class). Amen.

Experiencing Scented Oil

Show the children your glass jar of scented bath oil with sprigs of wild flowers and herbs visible in it, if you were able to locate one. If it was a gift tell a bit about how someone gave it to you so you could enjoy a relaxing sweet-smelling bath, and the oil would make your skin soft. (Or show regular bath oil and talk about how it is used for a sweet-smelling relaxing bath, that softens your skin. Show some dried scented flowers from potpourri and some olive oil. Explain that scented oil is made from mixing the two together and allowing them to sit for a length of time until the sweet smell of the flowers goes all through the oil.) Rub a little scented oil on the back of each child’s hand for them to enjoy.

(Hold up the Jesus figure from week 2.) In Jesus’ time there were no cars so people walked from town to town in their sandals. When they arrived their feet were pretty tired and sore and usually dirty from the dust on the road. The people in the home that you were visiting would bring a bowl of water and towel for you to wash your tired feet. And sometimes as a special gift there might even be some scented oil to rub on your feet, to soften the rough parts and heal any sores. The scented oil was made using olive oil and wild flowers and sometimes spices that came from far away countries. It took a long time to make and sometimes cost a lot of money. Our Bible story today is about some precious oil that Jesus received.

(Follow the pathway of stones to the opening of the Story-way. Say the chant together, walk through the doorway and sit by the “campfire.” Open the Bible to the Book of John.)

Chant: “We’ll ask our questions” (See Primary Teacher’s Resource Sheet.)
Story: Mary’s Gift of Love

Jesus was walking to the city of Jerusalem. As he went he was teaching and healing and doing God’s work. More and more people were finding out about Jesus. And more and more people were learning about God’s way! It was an exciting time.

Meanwhile, those in charge were watching all this. This Jesus offered a new way where everyone was welcome—young, old, sick, poor, men, women and children! The leaders thought Jesus was a troublemaker and they didn’t like troublemakers. It was a scary time.

But for Jesus and his friends there was much work to be done. So many places to visit. So many people to help. The roads were dusty. The sun was hot. On and on they walked. It was a tiring time.

Jesus came to the town of Bethany to stay at the house of his friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Everyone in the town knew this family because when Lazarus had been very sick and died, Jesus brought him back to life!

Lazarus opened the door for Jesus and his friends. Martha invited them to her home. It felt so good to Jesus to be sitting down! How his dry and dusty feet ached!

As Jesus sat, he wondered where his friend Mary could be. And before he could ask she came into the room carrying a jar. Without saying a word she opened the jar and it filled the room with a beautiful smell. Without saying a word she poured expensive perfume all over Jesus’ tired feet. She used the whole jar, gently rubbing his tired feet. Then she bent over those feet and wiped them with her long hair.

Well, Judas certainly had something to say. “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor?”

Jesus looked up and said, “Leave her alone. She has blessed my tired feet, feet that still have many places to go. I thank her for her gift. I thank her for her love.”

When Jesus left the house of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, he continued his walk towards the city of Jerusalem. He continued to help the sick, the poor, the small and the weak. When he sat down to rub his tired feet he remembered Mary’s gift of love. And he said, “Thank you God for the gift of Mary. She has helped me to keep walking.”

A Time for Wondering…

- Jesus is traveling on to Jerusalem. I wonder what he will do there?…
- I wonder. Has anyone ever shown their love for you in a special way?…
- I wonder what ways we can show our love for others like Mary did?…

(Together leave the story area, singing “God We Thank You” from the teacher’s resource sheet.)

Option A: Rebus Crossword

Hand out the activity sheet and read the rebus story together. Using the larger pictures, fill in the crossword.

Option B: “Messages of Love” Gift Bags

Give each child an envelope or bag to decorate with the words “I love you sooooooo much!” Encourage them to fill the envelope with lots of “x’s and o’s” (kisses and hugs) messages— even pages and pages of xoxoxoxoxo with scented markers. The children give them all to one person or spread them around!

Option C: A Jar of Love

We can show our love to others by the things that we do for them. Hand out the cleaned out juice containers. Decorate them with magazine pictures of people showing love. Invite the children to fill it with strips of paper on which they have printed things they can do for others. Leave some strips blank so other ideas can be added. Encourage them to use this “jar of love” at home by pulling out a strip and doing the action

Prayer: O God, when we follow Jesus, we follow you. His stories teach us what to do, to know your will, to grow in your way, moving closer every day. Amen.
Rebus Crossword

In Bethany, Jesus visited Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

With love Mary anointed Jesus by pouring expensive oil on Jesus' feet.
We'll Ask Questions

We'll ask our questions
we'll choose a way
we'll follow Jesus every day…
into the story
into God's story
into our story…

Naturally Scented Oil

(needs at least a week to age)
To make your own naturally scented oil, place 4 Tbsp/60 mL of olive oil in a glass custard dish. Add 3 Tbsp/45 mL of grated orange rind or orange zest, 3 Tbsp of cinnamon/45 mL, and 1 tsp/5mL of nutmeg to the oil. Heat for 20 seconds in the microwave. Stir. Heat again for 20 seconds. Stir. Allow to age for at least a week, stirring every day (2 weeks is even better). After it has aged, place a coffee filter in a sieve and filter oil mixture. This will give you a gentle, naturally scented oil to use in class.

God, We Thank You

(tune: Frère Jacques)
(This song is sung echo style.
The children sing the words in italics.)
God we thank you, God we thank you;
For this time, for this time;
Help us to remember, help us to remember;
to share your love, to share your love.