

1. perfume or cologne

Matthew 26:6-13 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

A Woman Pours Perfume on Jesus

⁶ Jesus was in Bethany. He was in the home of Simon, who had a skin disease. ⁷ A woman came to Jesus with a special sealed jar of very expensive perfume. She poured the perfume on his head while he was at the table.

⁸ When the disciples saw this, they became angry. "Why this waste?" they asked. ⁹ "The perfume could have been sold at a high price. The money could have been given to poor people."

¹⁰ Jesus was aware of this. So he said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ You will always have poor people with you. But you will not always have me. ¹² She poured the perfume on my body to prepare me to be buried. ¹³ What I'm about to tell you is true. What she has done will be told anywhere this good news is preached all over the world. It will be told in memory of her."

DISCUSS: Explain what you think about Jesus knowing he would soon be buried. What do you think he might have been feeling? What other things do you think he might have said to the woman? What other things do you think he might have said to his disciples?

2. cup and bread or cracker

Matthew 26:20-29 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was at the table with his 12 disciples. ²¹ While they were eating, he said, "What I'm about to tell you is true. One of you will hand me over to my enemies."

²² The disciples became very sad. One after the other, they began to say to him, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord, do you?"

²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will hand me over. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But how terrible it will be for the one who hands over the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²⁵ Judas was the one who was going to hand him over. He said, "Surely you don't mean me, Teacher, do you?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. He said, "All of you drink from it. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many people. ²⁹ Here is what I tell you. From now on, I won't drink wine with you again until the day I drink it with you in my Father's kingdom."

DISCUSS: What does this tell you about how Jesus cared for his friends? How do you think the disciples might have been feeling? How do you think you would feel if you had been there?

3. watch or clock

Matthew 26:36-45 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him. He began to be sad and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is very sad. I feel close to death. Stay here. Keep watch with me."

³⁹ He went a little farther. Then he fell with his face to the ground. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want."

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹ "Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

⁴² Jesus went away a second time. He prayed, "My Father, is it possible for this cup to be taken away? But if I must drink it, may what you want be done."

⁴³ Then he came back. Again he found them sleeping. They couldn't keep their eyes open. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more. For the third time he prayed the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples. He said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look! The hour has come. The Son of Man is about to be handed over to sinners."

DISCUSS: What does this tell you about what Jesus was thinking before his death? What does it tell you about who he is/his character?

4. cross

Matthew 27:27-31 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

The Soldiers Make Fun of Jesus

²⁷ The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the palace, which was called the Praetorium. All the rest of the soldiers gathered around him. ²⁸ They took off his clothes and put a purple robe on him. ²⁹ Then they twisted thorns together to make a crown. They placed it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then they fell on their knees in front of him and made fun of him. "We honor you, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him. They hit him on the head with the stick again and again. ³¹ After they had made fun of him, they took off the robe. They put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him away to nail him to a cross.

DISCUSS: What does the way that Jesus was treated tell you about his sacrifice for us?

5. nails

John 19:16-24 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

¹⁶ Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be nailed to a cross.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called the Skull. In the Aramaic language it was called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they nailed Jesus to the cross.

Two other men were crucified with him. One was on each side of him. Jesus was in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared. It was fastened to the cross. It read,

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁰ Many of the Jews read the sign. That's because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. And the sign was written in the Aramaic, Latin and Greek languages. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews argued with Pilate. They said, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews.' Write that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered, "I have written what I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes. They divided them into four parts. Each soldier got one part. All that was left was Jesus' long, inner robe. It did not have any seams. It was made out of one piece of cloth from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's cast lots to see who will get it."

This happened so that Scripture would come true. It says,

"They divided up my clothes among them.

They cast lots for what I was wearing." (Psalm 22:18)

So that is what the soldiers did.

DISCUSS: Talk about why you think Jesus gave his life on the cross for us.

6. sponge

John 19:28-30 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Dies

²⁸ Later, Jesus knew that everything had now been finished. He also knew that what Scripture said must come true. So he said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there. So they soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on the stem of a hyssop plant. Then they lifted it up to Jesus'

lips. ³⁰ After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

DISCUSS: what do you think Jesus meant when he said, "it is finished"?

7. stone or rock

Matthew 27:62-28:2 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

The Guards at the Tomb

⁶² The next day was the day after Preparation Day. The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember something that liar said while he was still alive. He claimed, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ So give the order to make the tomb secure until the third day. If you don't, his disciples might come and steal the body. Then they will tell the people that Jesus has been raised from the dead. This last lie will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ "Take some guards with you," Pilate answered. "Go. Make the tomb as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure. They put a royal seal on the stone and placed some guards on duty.

¹ The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it.

DISCUSS: How can we know that Jesus' resurrection wasn't faked, as Pilate feared?

8. an empty container

Matthew 28:5-10 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. ⁷ Go quickly! Tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said. They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."

DISCUSS: Why do you think both the angel and Jesus said, "Don't be afraid!"

ENDING:

What's one thing new you learned about Easter during this experience?

If you could tell a friend just one thing about Easter, what would you say?

What was your favorite part of our scavenger hunt and why?

Who would you like to show an act of love to this week?