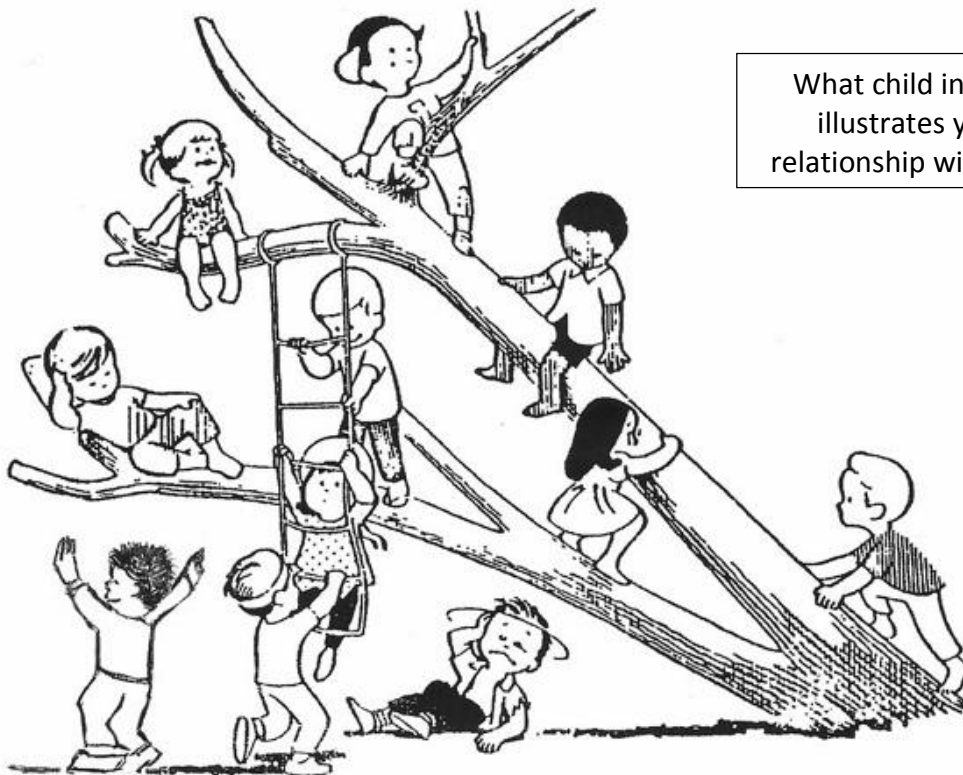


**HIDDEN FIGURES | Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet | Week 1 | July 6/7, 2019**  
**John 12:1-8**

*These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.*

**Opening:** The Bible is full of stories women who used their influence and took great personal risks to confront the injustices of their time. They knew the dangers of doing what they did yet their love for God propelled them to a different way of life that ran counter to cultural and social norms. Through this series we will explore these hidden figures of the scriptures allowing them to lead, teach and challenge us to become who God is calling us to become by the grace and love of Jesus.

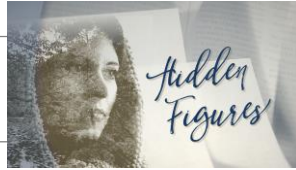
**Recognize:** Pastor Eric Haskins shared that it is often very helpful to recognize where we are at in our relationship with Jesus.



What child in the tree best illustrates your current relationship with Jesus? Why?

**Read:** [John 12:1-8](#) (Using this link will take you to [BibleGateway.com](#) where you can explore this passage through three preselected translations of the scripture.)

- *Journal or share what especially intrigued, challenged, encouraged, warmed, helped, or surprised you in this passage?*



**Mary's Life of Formation:** Pastor Dave and Pastor Eric mentioned how this story shows us, in a powerful way, the spiritual formation of a follower of Jesus. Pastor Dave helped us understand the full scope of spiritual formation by sharing: Length: through the years; Depth: through life's circumstances; Breadth: in all aspects of life. Journal or share . . .

- How are you intentionally engaging in your own spiritual formation allowing the Spirit of Christ to transform your heart to become more like Jesus?
- What spiritual practices have been particularly helpful to you in this season of life?
- What areas of your life does Jesus seem disconnected or distant from? Why?
- What aspects of Mary's example has been most inspiring to help you in your own formation?

Pastor Eric shared how when we develop in our intimacy with Jesus, there may be negative consequences. Mary was accused of wasting time with Jesus, in Luke 10, and then in John 12 wasting money on Jesus.

- In hearing these accusations against Mary, what goes through your heart and mind?
- Place yourself on the scene of the John 12 passage. What is your emotional response to Mary pouring out a perfume that cost a year's salary, on the feet of Jesus? Why?

**Three questions:** Pastor Dave Bianchin provides for us three power questions to reflect on following the inspiring example of Mary. Spend some time reflectively journaling or authentically sharing your responses to each question.

- When have I sat at Jesus' feet long enough, and listened closely enough, for Him to change my perspective?
- When have I been honest enough with Jesus about my struggles and pain for me to depend upon Him and hear His words of compassion and love?
- When have I wanted to serve (enough) that I have been willing to risk my reputation and my resources, in front of others, in order to bless Him?

**Practice of the Week:** Pastor Eric gave us three breath prayers to use as we live into the questions above. A breath prayer is a spiritual practice where, as you inhale, you say a meaningful name of God and as you exhale you share a deep desire of your heart. Choose one of the breath prayers the Pastor Eric gave us that most resonates with you and over the next week try to pray it at least each hour throughout your day.

- Lord Jesus, may I listen for Your voice.
- Lord Jesus, lead me closer to You.
- Lord Jesus, may I visibly love You.

**Additional Resources:** *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith*, by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg.