

My Sacrifice

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group hear what He wants to teach and encourage.
- Ask God to show each person what it looks like to continue gathering, serving, and growing.

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20–40 minutes)

- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.
- Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask, **“How does this scripture apply to this?”**

A Sweet Aroma

Read: John 12:1–8, Leviticus 1:9, Leviticus 1:13

In John 12, Mary poured out an entire alabaster jar of expensive spikenard oil on the feet of Jesus—an offering worth roughly a full year's wages (\$60,000 today) that traveled thousands of miles across the Silk Road. John highlights a key detail: *"And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil."* To an Israelite familiar with Leviticus, this phrase clearly pointed to the Old Testament sacrifices, which God described as a "sweet aroma to the Lord." Mary recognized the immense value of Jesus and gave a costly, extravagant sacrifice from her heart.

- Mary's sacrifice was extravagant and costly. What does her action teach us about how she viewed Jesus compared to everyone else in the room?
- In Leviticus, God describes true sacrifices as a "sweet aroma." Why do you think God cares so much about the heart and posture behind what we offer Him?

- Judas questioned the wastefulness of Mary's gift. Have you ever experienced a time when doing something radical for God was misunderstood by others?
- What is one practical way you can display extravagant love and honor to Jesus in your daily life?

The Sacrifice of Praise

Read: Hebrews 13:15, Romans 12:1

Under the New Covenant, we no longer offer animal sacrifices or physical goods to earn God's favor or forgiveness—Jesus completed that work once and for all on the cross. However, Scripture calls us to offer a different kind of offering: *"the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."* True praise often feels like a sacrifice when circumstances are hard, but as we lift up our worship, the sweet aroma of our praise rises to the Father, reminding Him of the ultimate sacrifice of His Son.

- Why is worship called a "sacrifice" of praise, especially when life is difficult or when our flesh doesn't feel like it?
- How has choosing to worship and give thanks during tough seasons shifted your perspective or brought peace into your life?
- What is the difference between worshipping God because of how it makes us feel versus worshipping simply because He is worthy?
- The sermon shared how smells trigger vivid memories. How does viewing our worship as a "sweet aroma" to the Father change the way you engage in praise?
- What is one area of difficulty or trial in your life right now where you need to offer a intentional sacrifice of praise this week?

III. Share & Prayer (20–40 minutes)

Time to 'take off the mask'! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- A personal life update, your current spiritual condition. Use emotional language to be real!
- Challenges or victories that you are experiencing.

- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support for? (e.g., *choosing to worship through a hard season, yielding your heart to God, or growing in personal Scripture meditation*)
- How can your Group support you this week?

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.