

# Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION  
OF THE WORD OF GOD



for Children

Psalm 119:105  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.

Autumn 2013

## At the Feet of Jesus

John 12

**M**ARY LOVED JESUS! She liked to sit with the disciples at Jesus' feet and listen as He spoke about His Father and about the kingdom of heaven. Mary had seen Jesus call her brother, Lazarus, out of the grave—ALIVE—after Lazarus had been dead for four days. Mary loved Jesus because Jesus had first loved her.

Jesus visited at the home of Mary and Lazarus and their sister Martha in Bethany. They all went to a dinner for Jesus at another home. Martha served the food, and Lazarus was one of the people at the table with Jesus. As Jesus reclined at the table, Mary did something the disciples did not understand.

**M**ARY HAD A SEALED STONE JAR made of white alabaster. Inside the jar was a pound of precious ointment which was made from a plant called "spikenard." The ointment had a very strong fragrance and it was VERY expensive. It cost about the same amount that one worker would earn after working for a whole year.

Mary came to the table where Jesus was reclining. She broke open the jar of expensive ointment! The fragrance of the strong perfume began to drift out. Soon the scent had filtered through the whole house, and everyone could smell it. Mary poured the precious ointment onto Jesus' feet; then she wiped His feet with her long hair.

When the disciples saw what Mary had done, they were indignant. They grumbled to one another saying, "Why was this ointment wasted? It could have been sold for a lot of money, and that money could have been given to the poor!"



Jesus knew what the disciples were thinking. He said to them, "Leave her alone! Why are you complaining about what Mary has done? She has done a beautiful thing for Me. You will have poor people with you always, but you will not have Me with you always. By pouring this ointment on Me, Mary has prepared My body for burial. I tell you truly, wherever in the world the Gospel is proclaimed, what Mary has done will also be told in memory of her."

**J**UST AS JESUS SAID, WHEREVER THE GOOD NEWS of Jesus is preached today, people remember Mary and the beautiful thing she did for her Lord, pouring out her precious ointment to anoint the feet of Jesus. ~



Jesus probably didn't sit in a tall chair to eat His dinner. He may have sat on the floor or on a cushion, with His legs behind Him and a low table before Him. This was the customary way to eat at that time.

# Toddlers

*Through Three Years*

## God made your nose.

You can *smell* with your nose. You can smell something nice like a **flower**.



You can smell something stinky like **dirty socks**.

## A lady named Mary put **perfume**

on Jesus' feet. It was strong perfume and you could smell it all over the house!



Let's pray: Thank You, God, for giving us noses so that we can smell. Thank You for the yummy smell of food and flowers.

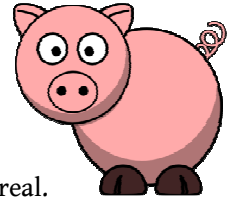
In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Tots

*Four-Six Years*

Have you ever heard the fairy tale about the beautiful princess who kissed a frog? He turned into a handsome prince, and they lived happily ever after.

Or, have you heard the story of the three little pigs who built their houses from straw, sticks and bricks? They hid in the brick house from the big bad wolf's huffing-and-puffing, and they, also, lived happily ever after.



These stories may be fun to read, but they are not real. They are filled with imaginary people and animals.

The Bible tells a true story—the best Real, True Story.

## **Happily Ever After**

The Bible tells how God the Father created the world and made people in His own image. When people disobeyed God, they fell into sin. God said the payment for sin is death, and so, death came into the world. Oh, this was awful!

Because God loved people so much, He sent His Son Jesus to the world to save people from sin. Jesus was God and Jesus was man. He never disobeyed God the Father and He never fell into sin. When the time was right, Jesus died on the cross as the payment for the sin of the whole world. He was buried in a grave, but He didn't stay there. On the third day, He arose again from the dead!

The Bible says whoever believes that Jesus died to save them from sin will not die forever. Even though their body may die, their spirit will live forever. We are "happily ever after" people.

The only way to really live happily ever after is to trust in Jesus.

Can you change the weather? Can you make the sun shine or snow fall? No! You cannot change a rainy day to sunny, even if you sing, "Rain, rain, go away! Come again some other day!" You cannot make a single flake of snow fall.

***He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.***

***Matthew 5:45***

God is in control of the weather. Your Father in heaven makes the sun shine, and the rain and the snow fall. God gives sunshine to all people—both good people and bad people. He sends rain on the earth to all people. He may give more sunshine in one area, and it gets very dry (*drought*). He may send more rain, and it gets very wet (*flood*).

People sometimes complain and worry about the weather. They complain if a picnic gets cancelled because of rain. Farmers worry about their crops if it's too wet or too dry. Gardeners worry about frost killing their vegetables.

All of the complaining and worry *don't change anything!* God's desire is that we would be thankful for the weather we receive. He is never pleased with our complaining and worry. He wants us to trust Him for the weather, even when it rains on our picnic. He wants us to ask Him for good weather and to help those who are in seasons of drought or flood.

# Tykes

*Ages Seven-Ten*

God makes the weather, and we try to prepare for it. We carry an umbrella if it looks like rain. We cover our vegetables if frost is in the forecast. We store water in tanks and wells to use in times of drought. We build levees to hold back the water in seasons of flood. But we cannot affect the weather even a little bit! Here's a little poem for you about the weather:



**Whether the weather be cold,  
Or whether the weather be hot;  
Whether the weather be nice,  
Or whether the weather be not;  
We'll weather the weather,  
Whatever the weather,  
Whether we like it or not!**

**Author Unknown**



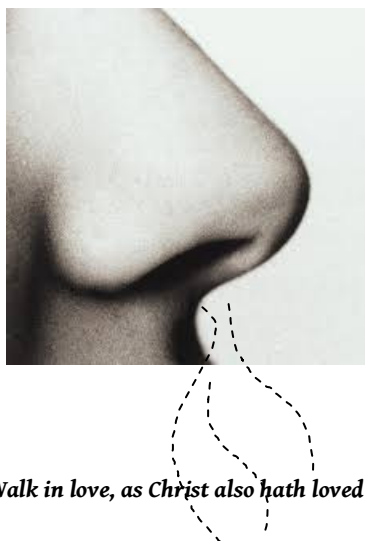
# Tweens

*Eleven-Twelve Years*

Imagine walking into your home and catching the aroma of fresh pizza wafting through the house. You know what's for dinner without even going to the kitchen. Now, imagine walking in the forest and sniffing the malodorous stench of skunk... pee-yew! You quickly turn and go another direction. Your nose has saved you from crossing paths with a smelly skunk!

## The “Scents” of Smell

God has given humans a remarkable sense of smell. We can distinguish about 10,000 different scents.



Our sense of smell can tell us what's for dinner or warn us of danger. Scents can also trigger memories. When we sniff a scent from our past, we often remember the last time that we smelled that scent. Throughout the first ten years of your life, you stored most of the aromas that you will recall when you are grown, some of them fondly and others not so fondly. You will remember specific times and events, places and people, simply by a faint scent drifting by on a breeze.

Did you know that God has a sense of smell? The Old Testament is filled with references to a “sweet savour” going up to the Lord. *Savour* means *scent*. God smelled the offerings and sacrifices of the children of Israel and the fragrance of them pleased Him.

The aroma of the offering that Christ made on the cross rises to God, and God is well pleased with that fragrance. Christ's sacrifice is sweeter than the sweetest perfume to His Father. Because Jesus was perfect and sinless, His willing obedience, even to death, makes His offering perfect in God's sight. In our place, Christ offered Himself as a fragrant sacrifice to God. His sacrificial aroma rises before our Father in heaven as a sweet-smelling savour, a fragrance that smells like life—eternal life.

*Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

*Ephesians 5:2*

We have a unique fragrance. Every person has their own special one-of-a-kind body odor, just as we each have our own individual set of fingerprints. But far more special—and important—is the unique spiritual fragrance that clings to each one of us.

# Teens

## The Aroma of Life

*For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?*

*2 Corinthians 2:15-16*

Because Christ loved us and gave Himself as a sweet-smelling sacrifice for us, Christians smell like sweet perfume to God. Because Christ has given us His perfect righteousness, to God in heaven we have the aroma of Christ Himself!

And to those around us, both the saved and the lost, Christians have a distinct odor. To those who are perishing, who don't believe in Jesus, we carry the fragrance of death to death. To those who refuse to repent and believe the sweet-smelling Gospel, the stench of death emanates from us, because the preaching of the Gospel requires faith. Faith in Jesus is the only thing that can give life. Because they do not have faith, their eternal destruction is a surety, and they smell this in us. We have something that they do not have: faith in a Savior who gives forever life. Those who continue in unbelief smell their own eternal death in the aroma of the glorious Gospel.

To those who are saved, though, we have the aroma of LIFE! To those who believe in Jesus, the fragrance of the Gospel rises from us. They breathe in a glorious perfume, the sweet smell of the gracious God who sacrificed His only Son to save us, and who sent His Spirit to live within us. Their faith recognizes the aroma that emanates from God's mercy and forgiveness. The bouquet of God's attributes shine through our own humanness. Believers smell life in us, forever life.

**Who is sufficient for these things?** Who is competent and able to carry the Gospel fragrance? We, as fallen humans, are certainly not. Only God, through Christ and by the work of the Holy Spirit, can perform the work within us and enable us to bear the sweet savor of the Gospel to the dying world around us. God is the All-Sufficient One.



## What Do You See...?

**Lucy Van Pelt:** Aren't the clouds beautiful? They look like big balls of cotton. I could just lie here all day and watch them drift by. If you use your imagination, you can see lots of things in the cloud's formations. What do you think you see, Linus?

**Linus Van Pelt:** Well, those clouds up there look to me look like the map of the British Honduras on the Caribbean... And that group of clouds over there gives me the impression of the Stoning of Stephen. I can see the Apostle Paul standing there to one side.

**Lucy Van Pelt:** Uh huh. That's very good. What do you see in the clouds, Charlie Brown?

**Charlie Brown:** Well... I was going to say I saw a duckie and a horsie, but I changed my mind.

Charles M. Schulz

Your *imagination* is your mind, your brain, pretending something that isn't really there. When you pretend you're a fireman or a nurse, you're using your imagination.

Have you ever played the game "What Do You See?" It's a simple imagination game with no winner or loser. Look at the clouds and try to see shapes of familiar things. You might imagine that you see animals, fish, birds or people. You might see household things like furniture or toys, or you might see food like corn on the cob or an ice cream cone. You probably won't see a map of the British Honduras, though! ~



## The Amazing Brain

Your brain is amazing. God made it that way!

Every minute of every day, since before you were born, your heart has been beating and blood has been flowing through your body to bring oxygen to your cells. From the minute you were born, your chest muscles have been expanding and contracting to make your lungs draw breath. In fact, before you were born, your lungs were "practice breathing" so they would be strong and ready when you were born.

These are *involuntary functions*. Your brain controls these important tasks without your conscious thought. You never think, "Heart, keep beating!" or "Lungs, keep breathing!" God made your body to work in this way, and it will keep working until your body dies.

You can hold your breath for a minute or two, but after that your brain says, "I need oxygen!" and your lungs gasp for air. If you hold your breath long enough to lose consciousness (which we do NOT recommend!), your body starts to breathe again as soon as you are unconscious, because your brain immediately tells your body to begin the breathing process.

Your heartbeat speeds up and slows down, depending on how much oxygen your cells need at the moment. When you run, your heart beats faster to provide more oxygen to your cells. When you sleep, your heartbeat is slower, because you don't need as much oxygen. You never have to tell your heart to beat faster or slower. That's *involuntary function* at work.

Ultimately though, our breath comes from God, the Sustainer of life. He is the One who makes our hearts beat and our lungs breathe.



The average human brain is only about three pounds of wrinkled gray matter, but those three pounds are vitally important to your life!

**What are some other involuntary functions?**

Digesting food, dilating iris, sense of smell, taste, touch

## Spikenard

The ointment that Mary used to anoint the feet of Jesus had a very distinct odor. *Spikenard* is a plant with pink bell-shaped flowers.

Spikenard root is used to make a strongly-scented, amber-colored thick oil. This oil was used in biblical times as perfume, as medicine, and as incense in religious ceremonies.



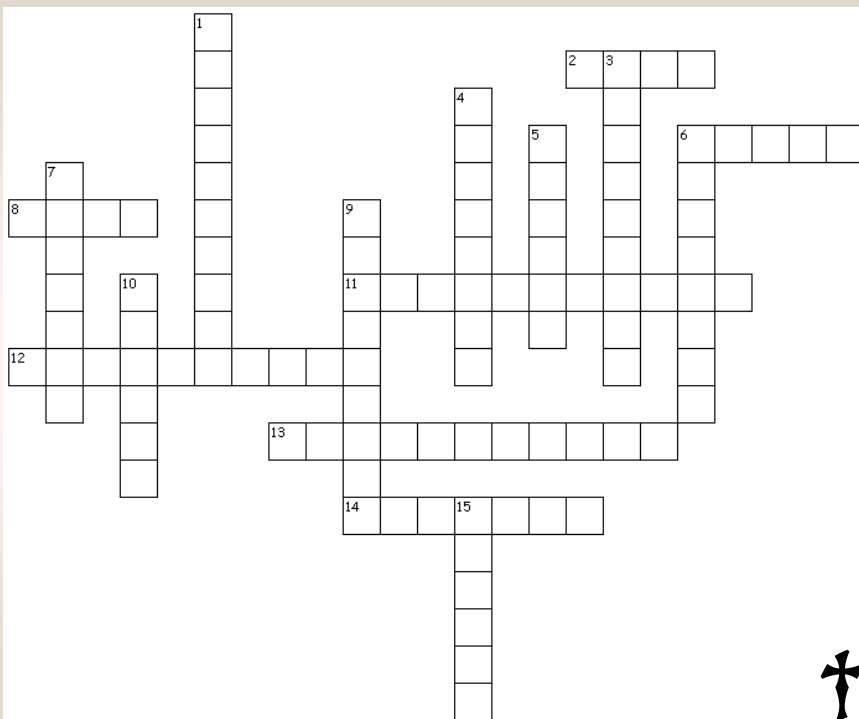
# **Word**

## †Across

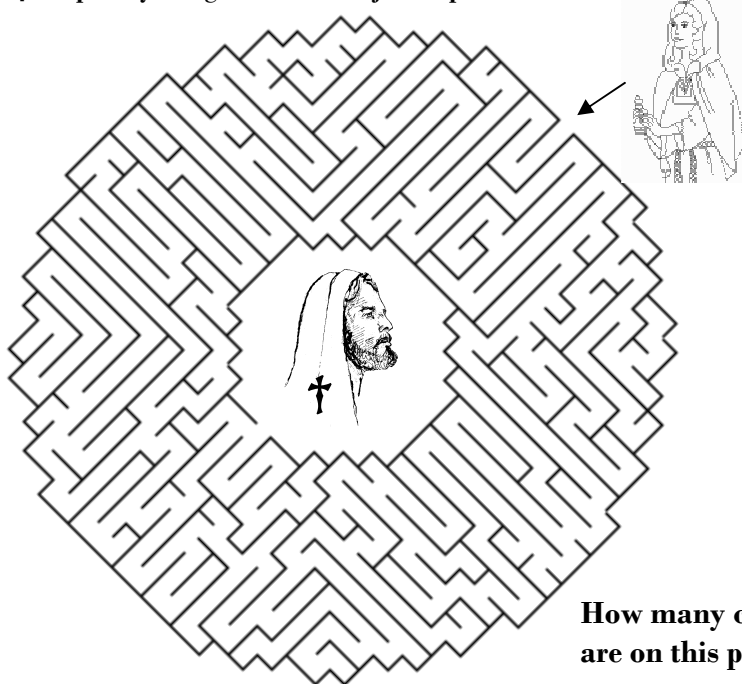
2. Lady who anointed Jesus' feet
6. Time of much rain
8. Part of body used for walking
11. Without conscious thought
12. Not able to happen or occur
13. You use this to pretend
14. Time of no rain

## †Down

1. Bad smelling
3. Hard white stone made into a jar
4. Of great value
5. "Scent" in the Bible
6. Strong smelling
7. Fragrant liquid used by ladies
9. Ointment put on Jesus' feet
10. Smear or rub with oil
15. One-of-a-kind



† Help Mary bring her alabaster jar of spikenard to Jesus.



## At the Feet of Jesus Puzzle Fun

Answer Key: page 7

### Who Am I?

† I climbed up in a sycamore tree to see Jesus. Who am I?  
*Luke 19:1-10*

† Jesus cast seven devils out of me. Who am I?  
*Mark 16:9*

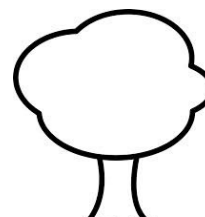
† I am the youngest son of Jacob and Rachel. Who am I?  
*Genesis 36:16-20*

How many crosses  
are on this puzzle page?

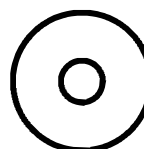


### † Double Vision †

What do you see in the image below? A tree?  
Or the back of an old lady's head?

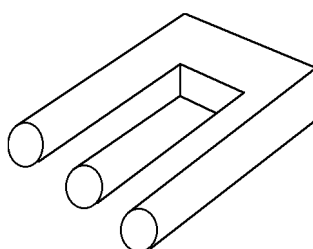
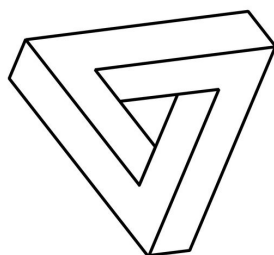


Find two different things in each image below.



### † Things that make you say, "Hmmm!"

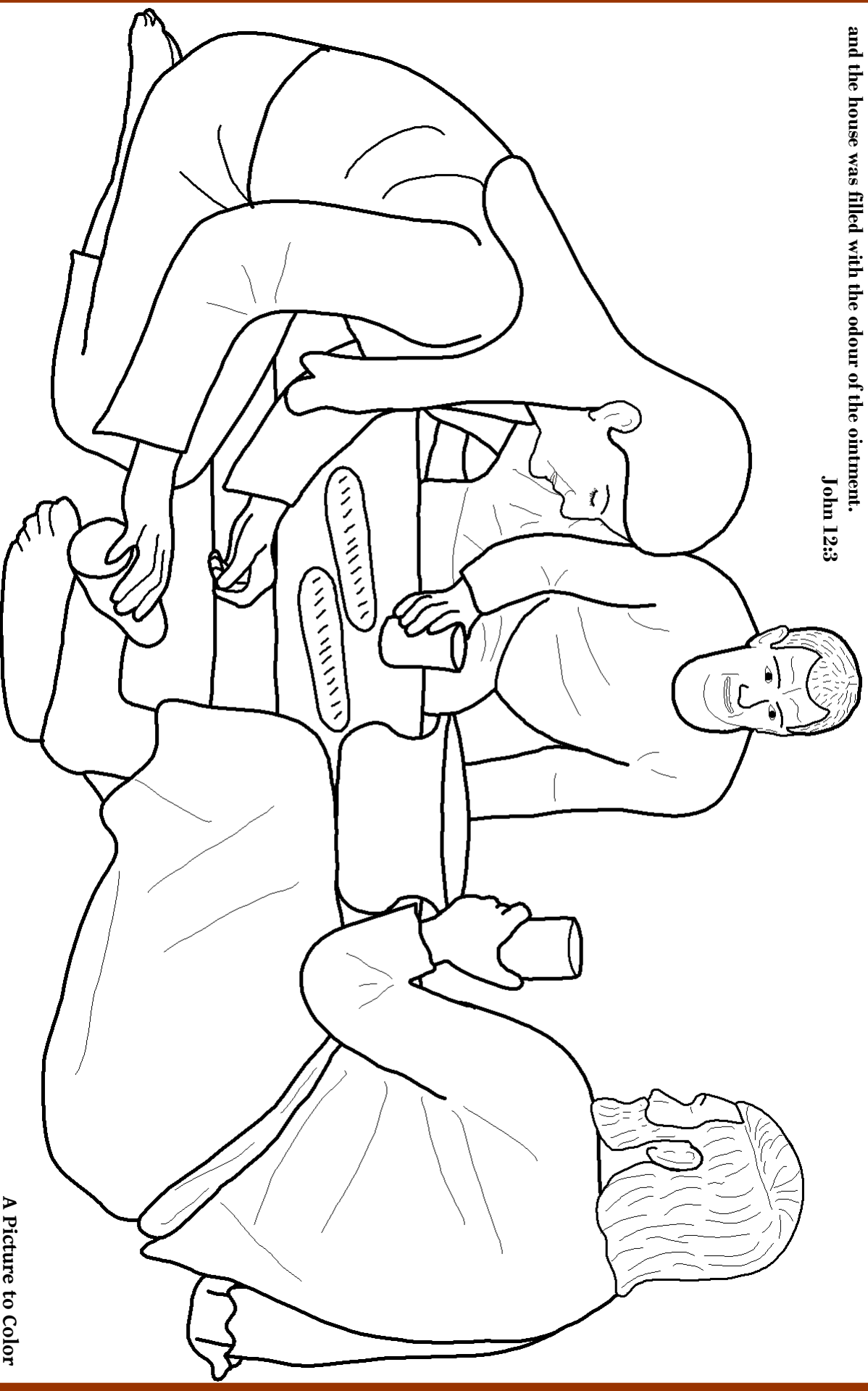
† What is odd about these objects?



## Mary Anoints the Feet of Jesus

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard,  
very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus,  
and wiped his feet with her hair;  
and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

John 12:3



A Picture to Color



# Brighten the Corner Where You Are

Ina D. Ogdon and Charles H. Gabriel

4 Do not wait un - til some deed of great-ness you may do; Do not wait to shed your light a -

8 far. To the man - y du - ties ev - er near you now be true; Bright-en the cor-ner

13 where you are. Bright-en the cor-ner where you are! Bright-en the cor-ner where you are!

Some-one far from har-bor you may guide a-cross the bar; Bright-en the cor-ner where you are.

## Puzzle Answer Key

**Who Am I?**  
Zachaeus  
Mary Magdalene  
Benjamin

**Double Vision**  
Donut/Top view of a fat bald man  
Ladder/Edge of a quarter  
Piece of pizza/Snow-cone

**CrossWord**  
Across:  
2. Mary  
6. Flood  
8. Feet  
11. Involuntary  
12. Impossible  
13. Imagination  
14. Drought

Down:  
1. Malodorous  
3. Alabaster  
4. Precious  
5. Savour  
6. Fragrant  
7. Perfume  
9. Spikenard  
10. Anoint  
15. Unique

**How Many Crosses?**  
There are 15 crosses on the puzzle page.

## Dear Heavenly Father,

You are the Holy One, the Creator of heaven and earth. You alone are worthy of all creation's praise!

Thank You for the blessings of nature that You give to us, the sun that shines and the rain that falls on both the just and the unjust. You have designed the world with such care. The rain falls from the clouds, runs away to the sea, and returns to the clouds to fall again. The seasons change: leaves fall from the trees in autumn, and the plant rests until spring.

Thank You for our bodies, for our sense of smell and all the wonderful scents that You have put into the world, and even for the stinky smells like skunk and garbage which give us warning to stay away. Thank You for the involuntary functions that keep our bodies alive, our heartbeat, our breath. You are a wise Creator and have designed us so intricately. As Your Word says, we are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Most of all, thank You for sending Jesus to live in this world and to die on the cross. Thank You for Mary who anointed our Lord for His burial. We know that He rose victorious over sin and death and hell. We know that He will come again.

Give us the ability to share the sweet-smelling Gospel of Jesus with others. Let His fragrance rise from us each day.

*In Jesus' Holy Name we pray, Amen.*



**Christian Monthly for Children** Vol. III—No. 3

Online Subscription: Suggested donation to [christianmonthlyalca.org](http://christianmonthlyalca.org)

**Apostolic Lutheran Church of America**

[www.apostoliclutheran.org](http://www.apostoliclutheran.org)

Send **ideas for publication** to:

Lois Matson, Editor  
CHRISTIAN MONTHLY  
PO Box 2996

Battle Ground, WA 98604 USA

Phone: (360) 904-6951

E-mail: [cm@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:cm@apostoliclutheran.org)

Address **subscriptions, payments,**

**and Book Concern orders** to:

Anders and Clara Sundqvist, Managers  
THE BOOK CONCERN

PO Box 2126

Battle Ground, WA 98604-2126 USA

Phone: (360) 896-7344

E-mail: [books@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:books@apostoliclutheran.org)

Western Mission: [western@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:western@apostoliclutheran.org)

Eastern Mission: [eastern@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:eastern@apostoliclutheran.org)

Foreign Mission: [foreign@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:foreign@apostoliclutheran.org)

The *Christian Monthly for Children* is published quarterly for electronic distribution by:

Apostolic Lutheran Book Concern

19113 NE 144th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606

## ***For Parents:***

*If you've ever tried to hurry a toddler, you quickly realize that they aren't often in a rush. They mosey through a walk, stopping to look at the ants scurrying in and out of a sidewalk crack. They nibble their lunch into interesting shapes and then play with their creations. A few short years later, they dawdle through their chores, daydreaming of castles and princesses, dragons and knights.*

*Life begins to rush our teenagers. They can't wait to have a driver's license, to graduate, to marry, to begin a career. They may become easily bored if they are not being actively entertained. They lose sight of the enjoyment found in lying in the grass and watching the clouds float across the sky, seeing imaginary castles or dragons.*



*By the time we reach adulthood, and especially when we become parents, we rush through our lives, hurrying from one task to the next. We rise from our beds, race through the day, and fall back into bed exhausted, with our to-do list unfinished. We wake after a restless night and hop on the treadmill of life again. We multi-task. We over-commit. We stress.*

*We're too busy to read a story—even a Bible story—to our little ones. We haven't time to play "What can you see in the clouds?" with an imaginative toddler. We push off our children's talk of daydreams or schooldays. We rarely stop to communicate with our teenagers, to share their joys or concerns. We don't have time.*

*Learn a lesson from a toddler. Give up some commitments, make some breathing room in your schedule and spend TIME with your children. Let them see you simplify your life and your schedule. Read a Bible story. Sing a song. Lie in the grass and play "What do you see?" Ask them about their dreams and listen to their answer. Share your own hopes for the future. Tell them about when you were a child, maybe before the days of computers and internet! And always, always, tell them about Jesus, who loved them and gave Himself for them. Teach them by example to find rest in the only One who can give them rest.*

*All too soon they'll be out of the nest, slaying their own dragons and building their own castles.*

***Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.***

***Matthew 11:28***