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[illegible]This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

OUR MISSION is to make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (Year 1, Week 27)

Col. 1:15-16 (God's Character)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by[a] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

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SERMON GUIDE

BEAUTY IN THE DARKNESS

John 12:1-11

Pastor I Tim Prince

June 29, 2025

Faith Community Church | fcchudson.com

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- S**cripture that stands out to you while you read
- O**bservations about the verse or phrases that stood out to you
- A**pplication that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- P**rayer that invites God to participate in your life and provide power to follow him

Conversation Questions

Setting The Table: This story takes place six days before Passover—the final week of Jesus' life. Jesus returns to Bethany, where He had raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11). Now, in Lazarus's home, a dinner is being held in Jesus' honor. Martha serves, Lazarus reclines at the table, and Mary does something unforgettable: she pours a jar of expensive ointment on Jesus' feet and wipes them with her hair. The ointment was nard, a fragrant oil that was extremely costly—worth about a year's wages—and was often used for anointing bodies for burial or as a treasured family heirloom. Mary's act was extravagant, emotional, and shocking in its humility.

As you read, notice the contrasts: Mary's humble worship vs. Judas's false concern; the fragrance that fills the house vs. the stench of deceit and death looming ahead. What does it mean to truly value Jesus?

Read John 12:1-11

- S** What do you love most about what you just read? What verses, phrases, or words stand out to you as you read these scriptures? Is anything jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O** What stands out to you about Mary's actions (v.2-3)?
 - What do you think her anointing of Jesus' feet with the expensive perfume tells us about her heart, priorities, and understanding of who Jesus is?
- O** How does Judas respond to Mary's act of worship, and how does John describe Judas' motivations (v.4-6)?
 - What can we learn from the contrasts between Mary and Judas?
- A** If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?
- A** What would it look like for you to respond to Jesus with Mary's kind of love and devotion this week? How might you express your worship?
- P** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.