



LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Valuing Jesus

Mark 14:1–11 • Oct 25, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim Consider the different responses to Jesus in this passage and examine what our own choices reveal about his worth to us.

Before you lead

Read Mark 14:1–11. Mark places a woman's costly act between the leaders' plot and Judas's betrayal. Let Mark's account control the discussion; he does not name the woman here. Jesus connects her act with his burial and defends her against the criticism.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

Suggested timing Welcome, prayer, and reading 4 min • Head 7 min • Heart 12 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

HEAD

Understand the passage

Read Mark 14:1–11 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. What are the leaders planning in verses 1-2, and what does Judas do in verses 10-11?

Follow-up: How does reading about the leaders and Judas before and after the woman's action help us understand what she does?

Leader note: Notice deliberate opposition on either side of an act that honors Jesus.

2. Why do some people criticize the woman in verses 3-5?

Follow-up: What do they notice about the perfume?

Leader note: The perfume is valuable. Let the group name the criticism before considering Jesus' answer.

3. How does Jesus explain and defend what she does in verses 6-9?

Follow-up: Why does his approaching death matter here?

Leader note: His words give this moment particular significance. They do not cancel the ongoing responsibility to help people in poverty.



HEART

Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

4. When has devotion to Jesus seemed wasteful to you or to someone around you?

Follow-up: What did you or the other person see as more valuable?

Leader note: Discuss a real choice without assuming that every costly religious act is wise.

5. How do you react when someone expresses love for Jesus differently than you would?

Follow-up: What might your reaction reveal?

Leader note: Invite humility about judging motives while still allowing thoughtful discernment.

6. What are you most reluctant to give up for Jesus?

Follow-up: What makes it feel so costly?

Leader note: Consider time, approval, comfort, or money without pressuring anyone to make a dramatic gesture.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. What would it look like to honor Jesus in a decision you're facing?

Follow-up: What is one faithful step you can take?

Leader note: Keep the response connected to actual obedience rather than finding an impressive sacrifice.

8. Whose quiet devotion could you encourage this week?

Follow-up: How could you encourage their devotion without comparing them with someone else?

Leader note: Jesus notices and defends someone others criticize. Practice generous attention.

Close in prayer

Thank Jesus for willingly moving toward his death. Confess where lesser things claim our loyalty, and ask for wisdom to love and honor him with what we have.