

**FAMILY THEME**

Omniscience

# ENDLESS SUPPLY OF KNOWLEDGE

**STUDY TEXT**

Matthew 26:1-16

**POWER UP**

Monday	Psalm 139:1-6
Tuesday	Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday	Mark 8:31-33
Thursday	John 6:66-70
Friday	Acts 2:14-23
Saturday	Matthew 26:17-30

**ACCESSORIES**

- Bibles, paper, pens or pencils
- Dry-erase board or newsprint pad and markers
- Horizon Essential* 1-1 (“When Divinity Meets Depravity”)\*
- Horizon Essential* 1-2 (“Superpowers”)\*
- Horizon Essential* 1-3 (“Tricky Numbers”)\*
- Horizon Essential* 1-4 (“A Comparison of Two”)\*
- Horizon Essential* 1-5a (“True Worship”)\*
- Horizon Essential* 1-5b (“True Worship”—answers)\*
- Horizon Essential* 1-6 (“Psalm 139”)\*
- Horizon Essential* 1-7 (“What’s Up?”)\*
- A personalized paraphrase of Psalm 139 (Apply)
- Small plastic bottles or old perfume bottles (Respond)

\*All are from *Horizon Teaching Essentials*—call 800-877-7030 or an affiliate bookstore to order

**THE TARGET**

To help students understand Jesus knows all things, including the motives of our hearts

**UPGRADE**

The woman who poured the bottle of perfume on Jesus’ feet must have received many confused and condemning looks from the people who watched her. To them, her act seemed to be an odd and irresponsible way to worship Jesus. Yet for her, it was the best way she knew to express love for her Master.

We will quickly reach burnout in ministry if we neglect to take the time to sit at the feet of our Master in worship. God made every person unique, and each one of us tends to have different ways we most meaningfully express our worship to God. Some find it easy to connect with God in worship by observing the wonders of His creation, while others find refreshment in intellectual study. Some find intimacy with God by spending time alone with Him in prayer, while others feel closest to Him during corporate worship. Some people enjoy expressing their love for God through service, music, or giving.

This week, identify a specific way you can express your worship to God. Carve some time out of your busy schedule to give Him the worship He deserves—a genuine worship that is offered without reservations. Sit at His feet.

**THE CLEAR VIEW**

- CONNECT:** Discuss “superpowers” or perform a mind-reading trick
- LEARN:** Recognize the way Jesus used omniscience to teach His disciples
- EXPLORE:** Understand that true worship comes from the heart
- APPLY:** Realize that Jesus knows us personally
- RESPOND:** Identify a way to worship God extravagantly

# CONNECT



TE 1-2



TE 1-3

This mind trick doesn't work every time, but the correct outcome of any number that is chosen at the beginning should always equal four. Delaware is the only state that begins with a "D" and elephant is the first animal many people think of that starts with the letter "E." If your volunteer happens to be creative enough to choose another animal that starts with "E," admit your inability to read his or her mind, pointing out that only God is able to do this.

## LEARN

### STUDENT LINK

In the Respond section of the previous lesson (Fall 2009, Lesson 13), students were challenged to strike up spiritual conversations and discussions with friends and people they know. How many of your students intentionally struck up such conversations? How many accidentally found themselves in a spiritual discussion? Ask students if your discussion about listening versus arguing helped them understand the other person's hurts and fears. How did their conversations go?

### CHECKUP

Before you teach this lesson, be sure each student has a copy of the new *Horizon* student magazine (December-February). Encourage your students to complete the devotionals for Week 1 during the upcoming week. These devotionals are meant to further their understanding of today's lesson and help them be prepared for the next lesson. Don't forget to ask your students about their devotions from the previous week.

**Option 1:** Distribute copies of *Horizon Essential* 1-2 ("Superpowers") and pens or pencils. Ask students to imagine they woke up one day to discover they had the "superpower" of being able to read the minds of others. Ask, *What would you do with your ability? How would it help you?* Encourage students to think for a few minutes about their answer. In the space on the handout, ask them either to describe or to draw a picture of what they would do with this ability. Next, ask: *What would you do if you had the ability to see into the future? How could it help you?* Transition to Learn by saying something like the following: *The Bible shows us that Jesus knows all things. He has the ability to know the thoughts and motives of all people. He also has complete knowledge of everything that will happen in the future. We call this attribute of Christ "omniscience." Today we will see how Jesus used His omniscience, or "all-knowingness," to teach the disciples.*

**Option 2:** Announce to your students you will attempt to read someone's mind. Ask a volunteer to pick a whole number between 2 and 9. Next, inconspicuously give him or her the instructions found on *Horizon Essential* 1-3 ("Tricky Numbers"). When you have finished, see if you were able to guess correctly what the student was thinking. Transition to Learn by saying something like the following: *I was able to predict your answer through a clever trick—not through magic or supernatural powers. However, there is someone who truly can read your mind—who knows your deepest thoughts, feelings, and motives. Today we will learn about how all-knowing, or omniscient, Jesus is.*

If we ever get the feeling there is no one in the world who can understand what we are thinking and feeling, we can be sure Jesus does. Jesus has complete knowledge of all things, including our thoughts and our motives. He knows when we worship Him with pure and sincere hearts, and He knows when we put on a front, hiding sins we think are secret. Today's passage is about a person who was encouraged by Jesus' omniscience and a person who was convicted by it.

### Jesus Used Foreknowledge to Teach About the Crucifixion (Matthew 26:1-5)

As He had done several times before, Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for His death by telling about it in plain language. The time for the annual Passover celebration was approaching quickly, and Jesus told His disciples He would be handed over for crucifixion soon (verses 1-2). Jesus knew about the suffering He would experience on the cross long before it actually happened. Jesus also knew why He had to die, and He regularly talked to the 12 disciples about this.

While Jesus gathered with His disciples to teach them, another gathering was taking place. The chief priests and elders of the Jewish people gathered in the court of Caiaphas, the ruling high priest who had been appointed by the Romans (verse 3). These religious leaders formed a plot to seize and kill Jesus, whose teachings challenged their authority and caused them to hate Him (verse 4). They were anxious to arrest Jesus as soon as possible, but they planned to wait until after the Passover festival. They did this because they were afraid a riot might break out among the people (verse 5).

When we find out a job, a competition, or a project might be difficult, we sometimes want to back out. Jesus knew, in a more powerful way than any human ever could, that the trials awaiting Him would be more painful than anyone had ever experienced. Even with this knowledge, however, Jesus chose to embrace the task before Him because He knew no other way to restore the relationship between God and man. We should follow Jesus' example and not be afraid to do hard things. Taking a stand for Christ at school, choosing a ministry opportunity over one's own plans, or making a sacrifice for someone else probably will involve some type of cost. We should never try to avoid God's will because it will be difficult. Embrace it; Jesus knows what He is doing, and He knows the outcome will be worth any sacrifice.

### **Jesus Used Foreknowledge to Teach About True Worship (Matthew 26:6-13)**

When Jesus arrived with His followers in the town of Bethany, a woman did something for Him that was very unusual. Jesus reclined at a table in the home of Simon the Leper; a woman came to Him with a vial of very costly perfume and poured it on His head (verses 6-7). The disciples immediately expressed their outrage, crying out that what the woman had just done was a terrible waste (verse 8). They exclaimed that the perfume could have been put to a greater use if it had been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor (verse 9).

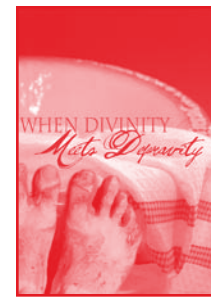
Jesus quickly corrected the disciples' self-righteous presumption, defending the woman they had criticized. He said the act she had performed was very good and honoring to Him (verse 10). Jesus told the disciples they would always have opportunities to do good deeds for the poor, but they would not always have the opportunity to express directly their love for Him like this (verse 11).

Jesus pointed out that the woman's act of pouring the perfume on His body was symbolic. In those days, after someone died, his or her body was anointed with spices and perfumes before burial. Although Jesus had not yet died, this event foretold what would happen to Him (verse 12). The woman's act of love meant so much to Jesus that He said that wherever the gospel was preached throughout the world, the story of this woman's deed would be told in memory of her (verse 13).

Does this story mean Jesus doesn't want us to care about the needs of the poor? Not at all. Jesus does not want us to miss the point of service: *worshipping Him*. There will always be great social needs around us: hunger, homelessness, abuse, and poverty. God wants us to help these people in His name, but if we miss the point of giving Him heartfelt worship when we do these things, then all of it will be worthless. Our motive in worshipping God should not be a desire to be seen and recognized by others. We should worship God because we love Him.

### **Jesus Had Foreknowledge That He Would Be Rejected (Matthew 26:14-16)**

John's gospel specifically identified Judas Iscariot as the disciple Jesus rebuked for criticizing Mary (John 12:4). It could have been Jesus' scolding that triggered a rebellious response in the disciple. It was at this time that Judas made a bargain with the chief priests who wanted Jesus dead (verse 14). He agreed to hand Jesus over to them for 30 pieces of silver (verse 15). Judas began looking for just the right time to betray Jesus (verse 16).



TE 1-1

Be sure to display *Horizon Essential* 1-1 ("When Divinity Meets Depravity") somewhere in your classroom. This unit poster illustrates the quarter's theme and is designed to remain on display throughout the quarter.

John 12:1-11 is a parallel passage to Matthew 26:6-13. John provides additional detail saying Mary anointed Jesus' feet and dried them with her hair.

John's gospel identifies this woman as Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus who lived in Bethany. In all three instances where Mary is mentioned in the gospels, she is pictured sitting at the feet of Jesus.

## STUDENT LINK

On Monday in the upcoming week's 6-Day Bible Study in *Horizon* student magazine, students will be asked if they ever try to hide things from God. Ask your students why it does not make sense for us to try to hide our problems from God.

# EXPLORE



TE 1-4



TE 1-5a



TE 1-5b

The gospel of John makes it clear Jesus knew what would happen. He knew the man He had chosen to be His follower would utterly betray Him. Jesus chose Judas to be one of the 12 men to whom He taught and revealed His power. Yet even after all of the amazing things Judas had seen and heard, he chose to betray his Master because of selfishness. When we hear the story of Judas' betrayal, we may wonder how someone who had been so close to Jesus could have chosen to do such a horrible thing. Yet there are many people today who, like Judas, have heard so much about Jesus and seen so much of His power and still choose to reject Him. We must be careful not to harbor attitudes of bitterness and selfishness, which pull us away from Christ.

On the outside, Judas probably looked like a godly man, and the woman who poured the perfume onto Jesus' head probably was thought to be the worst of sinners; however, Jesus knew the true motives of each. Jesus publicly honored the woman for the way she genuinely loved and worshiped Him, and Judas ultimately reaped the consequences of his selfishness and hypocrisy by death.

Distribute *Horizon Essential* 1-4 ("A Comparison of Two") to each student. Using the essential, ask students to identify specific differences between the woman and Judas. What was different about their motives? How did they respond to Jesus and His teachings? What can we learn from these two individuals about true worship and fake worship? As your students point out the differences between the woman and Judas, you may want to make a list or chart of their observations on the board.

True worship comes from the heart. Jesus, who knows all things, recognizes and delights in true worship. Distribute *Horizon Essential* 1-5a ("True Worship"). Instruct students to look up the passages to find out what the Bible teaches about true worship. You may choose to assign a reference to each student or have students get in small groups to look up the verses. After a few minutes, discuss the observations students found in the passages. A teacher's guide to these passages and their points on worship can be found on *Horizon Essential* 1-5b ("True Worship"—answers).

After this discussion, ask students how they would define "true worship" based on the passages they read. Reemphasize that God is omniscient, or all-knowing, and He knows the true condition of our hearts when we come to worship Him. The worship God seeks is genuine, selfless, and sacrificial.

# APPLY

Help students personalize Psalm 139, a passage that speaks powerfully of the way God knows us intimately. There are several ways you can do this activity, depending on your time and resources. One idea is to have students read the passage silently from their Bibles and then think or write about what the passage means to them personally. Another option is to make a photocopy of Psalm 139 for each student, underline the personal pronouns (words like *I*, *me*, *mine*) from the passage on this photocopy, and have students write their own name above these underlined words.

If neither of these ideas is practical for your class, you can produce a "personalized paraphrase" of Psalm 139 for each of your students. By using websites like [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org) or other types of Bible software, copy and paste Psalm 139:1-18 to a word-processing document. By replacing the personal pronouns with blanks for students to write their names, and by printing a copy

of this document, you can make it easy for them to see the way this passage relates to them.

After allowing students to read and think about their personalized paraphrase of Psalm 139, discuss the significance of the passage. Ask the questions found on *Horizon Essential* 1-6 (“Psalm 139”). Although the questions are found on the essential, they are also provided for you below:

- *Does knowing that Jesus knows your thoughts and motives encourage you or make you feel ashamed?*
- *How should it affect the way you think?*
- *Does knowing that Jesus sees your every action encourage you or make you feel ashamed?*
- *How should it affect the way you live?*
- *How does verse 14 describe the works of God?*
- *Since you are one of His wonderful works, how should it affect the way you think and live?*



TE 1-6



There has never been a more extravagant expression of love than when Jesus demonstrated His love for us by being crucified on the cross for our sins. All He desires from us is that we believe in Him, love Him, and surrender our lives to Him. When we truly worship Christ with our lives, it is likely we will be considered crazy, foolish, strange, over the top, extravagant, or even uncool. This is what happened to Mary when she expressed her love for Jesus in the best way she knew. Yet in light of eternity, it is the opinion of Christ, not others, that matters.

Ask students to think of an extravagant way they can express their love for Christ. It could be something they do for Him, something they give to Him, or something they give up for Him. It may not be something that will cause them to receive praise from others, but that should never be the goal of worship. Remind students God desires true worship from His followers. Have students write their act of worship on a piece of paper, fold the paper, and place it in a small bottle. Encourage them to place this bottle in a place where they will see it every day so it will challenge them to worship God extravagantly, as Mary did.

Encourage your students to complete this week’s daily devotions in *Horizon* magazine. The devotions are designed to reinforce and apply the principles you teach in class.



TE 1-7

*Horizon Essential* 1-7 (“What’s Up?”) is a two-page parents’ newsletter. Photocopy it front and back on a single sheet of colored paper, add your own note, and mail or hand-deliver it to your students’ parents. This is a great tool for ministering to parents by helping them do the hard job of parenting a teen.