MYSTERY

Blessed Are Who?

This is the Story/Service Guide for Day Two. The complete Guide is available online at bannerblue.org.

Day Two: Mary Magdalene the Blessed Believer

Key Scripture: John 20:1-18
Key Beatitude: Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God.
Guiding Question: How do we honor the forgotten?
Overview: Today the kids will learn about Mary Magdalene and create movie trailers for forgotten historical figures to help them understand today's beatitude.

Learning Objectives:

- When Jesus was arrested, some of his followers ran away and some stayed with him like Mary. Jesus' love for all of his followers never faded.
- When Jesus died, all of his followers were sad including Mary.
- When Jesus came back to life he didn't want his followers to be sad any more but he also didn't want them to keep their happiness to themselves. They had to share the good news.
- Jesus chose Mary as the first person to send out with the good news because her heart never stopped being filled with his love.
- Jesus' resurrection is so amazing that our hearts should be pure like Mary's. That means they should be so full of all the emotions of life and love that Jesus shared with us that they are overflowing! In this way we are all blessed more than can be measured!

Intro Learning Activity: A Full Heart

Supplies Needed:

- Regular Balloons (at least 1 per kid)
- Pushpin
- Confetti
- Vacuum (optional)

Instructions:

1. Give each kid a balloon but tell them not to blow it up. Explain that these balloons will represent their heart and that they are going to create a heart that is full to the point of bursting like Mary's.

2. Show the kids how to stuff a balloon with confetti and then let them stuff their own. (You may need to make your own confetti by tearing paper into little pieces or by setting the kids loose one some paper with a whole puncher. It's great to recycle used paper for this purpose!)

3. Next have the kids blow up their confetti filled balloons.

4. Either have the kids pop their balloons by taking turns or pop all the balloons at once. The pushpin is for anyone who needs help popping their balloon. Remind the kids that Jesus calls us to have pure hearts. A pure heart is a heart so full of love that it is ready to burst and share the good news of Jesus' resurrection!

5. Pick up or vacuum up the balloon and confetti pieces.

Video: Mary the Blessed Believer

Use the video provided online (coming in early June) to familiarize the kids with the story of Mary Magdalene. Here are some questions to go along with the video:

- Was Mary's life tough or easy before she met Jesus?
- What did Mary do to show her love for Jesus?
- How did Jesus die?
- Who stayed with Jesus all the through the crucifixion?
- Who saw Jesus first when he was resurrected?
- What did Jesus send Mary out to do?

Service Learning Activity: Untold Hero Stories

Today you'll help the kids make movie trailers for a hypothetical movie about a forgotten figure from history. Examples of forgotten figures are included below.

Supplies Needed:
- Smartphone or Tablet
- Costumes and Props

Preparing for the Activity:
1. Look on your device's app store for free video-making apps. imovie comes preloaded on some apple devices and has a trailer feature. You are looking for something that allows you to add video, pictures, and titles to a preset movie trailer template.

2. Gather together things that your kids can use as props and costumes for your movie trailer.

Instructions:
1. Explain to the kids that they will be making a trailer for a pretend movie. The movie is about a historical figure who was heroic and important yet forgotten by most people. The kids will be recorded with your smartphone or tablet and then you or they will combine the clips and photos together into a movie trailer.

2. Help the kids to pick out a historical figure for their movie trailer by describing the recommended figures listed below, someone you have come up with, or someone that they are able to name. Keep in mind what costumes and props you have ready when picking a figure.

3. Give the kids 5-10 minutes to cast their trailer and put on costumes.

4. Use the smartphone or tablet to capture the necessary video and photos.

5. Help the kids brainstorm a title for their make believe movie. The titles provided for the Bible characters for each day of Mystery Museum are good examples. Ask the kids to think of a simple adjective and noun to describe their historical figure.

6. Once your movie trailer is complete, and if you are comfortable doing so, invite the kids to share it with their friends and family.

Recommended Historical Figures:

- **Alice Coachman** – In 1948, at the age of 25, Coachman became the first African-American woman to win a gold medal at the Olympics. She paved the way for millions of black female athletes reaching for the gold.

- **Margaret Hamilton** – This photo was taken in 1969. You may not recognize her name, but Hamilton was the lead software engineer of the Apollo Project. Here she is seen standing next to the code she wrote by hand that was eventually used to take astronauts to the moon.

- **Sybil Ludington** – In April 1777, setting out after dark in freezing rain, Sybil rode 40 miles (twice as far as Paul Revere), fending off a band of highway robbers along the way, to rouse the local militia. Thanks to Sybil's warning, the soldiers made it to the Battle of Ridgefield. Sybil was honored by George Washington for her heroic ride.

Lesson Reflection: Mary Magdalene was clearly very important to Jesus and his story but she is often forgotten or ignored by those who tell his story. We can learn a lot by remembering and honoring Mary Magdalene. We can also learn a lot by remembering and honoring other forgotten historical figures. Yet, we need to remember that Mary didn't follow Jesus so that she could be honored by us hundreds of years later! Mary followed Jesus because her heart was full of love for Jesus and all that he stood for. Mary's full heart was a pure heart. The best way we can honor her is by having hearts full of Jesus' love as well.