



LOOP Study Guide

You Have Access Week 11

Key Scripture:
Mark 14:1-9

**Theme: Break You to Make You...
God Never Wastes the Breaking**

BIG IDEA

Sometimes God allows breaking in our lives not to harm us, but to transform us. Just like the alabaster jar in Mark 14 had to be broken for the perfume to be poured out, many times God has to break areas of our lives—our pride, greed, fear, control, and self-reliance—so that what He placed inside us can finally be surrendered back to Him. The question is not whether God wants something from us... but whether we trust Him enough to give Him our best.

L — LOOK BACK

Icebreaker: When you were a kid, what did you think being “rich” looked like?

Examples:

- Having a pool
- Owning expensive shoes
- Big house
- Lots of toys
- Unlimited allowance
- Fancy car

Group Discussion

- How has your definition of “being rich” changed over time?
- Why do you think people naturally connect security with possessions?
- What are some things people today chase in order to feel successful?

O — OBSERVE

Read Together: Mark 14:1–9 - The woman with the alabaster jar

Matthew 6:21 *“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”*

Luke 12:15 *“Beware! Guard against every kind of greed...”*

As a group discuss:

- What stands out most to you in this story?
- Why do you think Jesus valued this woman's act so highly?
- What does this story teach us about surrender?

O — OWN THE MESSAGE

BIG IDEA #1: What You Treasure Reveals What You Worship

The alabaster jar was likely one of this woman's most valuable possessions.

It represented:

- Security
- Future plans
- Financial value
- Personal significance

Yet when she encountered Jesus, she willingly brought Him her best.

Key Thought: What we treasure most often reveals what sits first in our heart.

Sometimes our modern "alabaster jars" are:

- Bank accounts
- Careers
- Possessions
- Comfort
- Retirement plans
- Personal dreams

Discussion Questions

- If your priorities were examined honestly, what would people say you treasure most?
- Why is it easy for possessions to slowly become idols?
- What modern "alabaster jars" do people struggle surrendering to God?

BIG IDEA #2: God Often Breaks What He Wants to Use

The woman didn't offer Jesus a portion. She broke the jar completely.

She did not give Him part. She gave Him everything.

The jar had to be broken before the perfume could be released.

The same is true spiritually. Sometimes God allows breaking in our lives because He is preparing us for surrender.

Key Thought: God never wastes the breaking.

Sometimes God breaks:

- Pride
- Self-reliance
- Greed
- Comfort
- Fear
- Control

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever experienced a season where God “broke” something in your life for growth?
- Why do people often resist surrender when God begins working deeply?
- What area of your life is hardest for you to fully surrender?

BIG IDEA #3: Greed Quietly Competes for God’s Position

The people in the room immediately criticized her generosity.

Judas was present. The same Judas who would later betray Jesus for money.

Greed rarely announces itself loudly. It quietly convinces us:

- I worked hard for this
- I deserve to keep this
- I need more before I can trust God
- I can give later

Jesus warned strongly about greed because greed directly competes with worship.

Luke 12:15 “Guard against every kind of greed...”

Key Thought: Greed is dangerous because it slowly teaches us to trust money more than God.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jesus spoke so strongly about greed?
- How can hard work unintentionally become worship of possessions?
- Why is greed often harder to recognize than other sins?

BIG IDEA #4: Tipping God Is Different Than Trusting God

The woman could have cracked the jar open slightly. She could have offered Jesus a small amount. Instead she gave Him all of it.

The sermon compared this difference to:

- Tipping → Giving God some when convenient
- Tithing → Bringing God our first and best consistently

Generosity is not primarily about finances. It reveals trust.

Key Thought: God is not asking for part of your trust. He is asking for all of it.

Discussion Questions

- Why do finances often reveal where our trust really lives?
- What fears keep people from trusting God financially?
- Have you ever experienced God's faithfulness after taking a financial step of obedience?

BIG IDEA #5: Your Legacy Will Be Generosity or Greed

Joshua 6 teaches that Jericho belonged fully to God. But in Joshua 7, Achan allowed greed to lead him into disobedience.

Our choices today create stories tomorrow.

The sermon asks an important question: **What will your family remember about you?**

Will your legacy be:

- Fear?
- Greed?
- Self-preservation?
- Or generosity and trust?

Key Thought: Future generations inherit the values we model today.

Discussion Questions

- What financial values did your parents teach you growing up?
- What legacy do you want to leave your children or future generations?
- How do our financial habits communicate what we truly value?

BIG IDEA #6: Jesus Gave His Best First

The entire story points us toward Jesus. God did not ask us to do something He has not already done Himself. God gave His very best.

Jesus willingly gave His life. There was no resurrection without surrender. There was no victory without sacrifice.

Romans 3:17 reminds us...God is not condemning us. But He does convict us.

Key Thought: Before God ever asked for surrender from us, He demonstrated surrender for us.

Discussion Questions

- How does Jesus' sacrifice change the way we view surrender?
- Why is surrender often connected to freedom?
- What does "dying to yourself" practically look like in everyday life?

P — PRACTICE

This Week's Challenge: Choose one area where you will intentionally trust God more deeply this week.

- **Financial Trust** - Take a step toward consistent generosity.
- **Personal Surrender** - Give God an area you've been controlling.
- **Worship** - Spend time asking what has become more valuable than God.

Heart Check. Ask honestly:

"Is God first in my life... or just part of my life?"

Write one area you need to surrender:

Prayer Time

Spend time praying over:

- Greater trust in God
- Freedom from greed
- Courage to surrender fully
- Wisdom with finances
- A legacy of generosity
- Hearts fully devoted to Jesus

Closing Thought

The alabaster jar had to be broken before the fragrance could be released.

Sometimes God allows breaking...Not to destroy you. But to release what He placed inside you.

You cannot experience resurrection without surrender.

God never wastes the breaking.