

Bible in 52 Weeks: Week 38

Martha and Mary



Share your highs and lows with each other. Who would you like to come visit to your home? Who do you get excited about coming to your house?



Read Luke 10: 38-42 and Spark Storybook Bible page 366

Conversation Starters:

For children:

- What would you do to get ready if you knew that Jesus was coming to your house? What food would you cook for Jesus?
- Do you help your family with chores? What chores do you do? Do you like to do your chores? Why or why not?
- What is your favorite story about Jesus? Why is it your favorite?
- Have you ever been upset with someone for not helping you? Did you tell them that you were upset? How did it work out?
- Do ever worry about things? Who do you talk to about your worries?

For youth/adults:

- Martha is fulfilling the traditional role of women cooking and cleaning for guests, while Mary is not. Jesus seems unworried about social norms. How do social norms keep you from fully engaging Jesus or engaging your faith in your life?
- What distracts you from your faith practices? How can you practice “sitting at the feet of Jesus”?
- How can you keep the “main thing, the main thing” in your relationship with God? For you, what is that “one thing” that you need to live your faith and share your faith?
- What does this story tell us about hospitality in God’s kingdom? Is it about details and perfection? Relationship? What do you think Jesus cares about?
- This is not an “either/or” story but a “both/and.” I don’t think that we should villainize Martha for doing what society asked of her and wanting to provide generous hospitality to Jesus and the disciples. This is about balance, keeping perspective and relationships. What signs do you notice about yourself when things are out of balance in your life?
- Sibling relationships are complex at best. How have you and your siblings negotiated differences?

Activities for All:

- Children: Practice being Martha and Mary this week! Help with chores and then read a favorite Bible story with mom and dad (and brothers and sisters!) this week.
- Pick a spiritual practice (prayer, bible devotion, meditation, music, art, journaling, etc.) and spend about 15 minutes a day with the practice this week. What do you notice about your connection with God when you are intentional about spiritual practices?
- How can you engage hospitality as a spiritual practice? It's not only about welcoming people into your home, but hospitality can also be about how you welcome people into your daily life and activities.
- Make a list of the chores that everyone in the household does. Cut the list into strips and place them in a basket or jar. Each day everyone pulls out a chore and does it even if it's not normally "theirs." Offer a "thank you" to one another as you do each other's chores!
- Look for a neighbor or friend to help this week. Notice how people help you! Write a thank you note for their kindness.



Light a candle and sit together for prayer. Offer prayers of thanksgiving for people in your life who help you and people whom you helped. Confess those things that distract you from Jesus and hear Jesus say to you "you're forgiven!" Offer these words of forgiveness to one another. Make sure that each person hears those important words!



+Jesus is all you need+