

MARY AND MARTHA

WONDER AND REFLECT *AFTER THE BIBLE STORY*

Imagine yourself as Martha, getting everything ready for your guests.

Imagine what it was like to sit at Jesus' feet.

I wonder how Mary felt when Jesus said, "Mary has chosen what is better. "

I wonder if Martha went back to the works or say at Jesus' feet.

I wonder how we can sit and listen to Jesus.

BUILD COMMUNITY

Families are bound to include different personalities. These differences can strengthen relationships, or they can cause conflict.

Talk about what makes a personality; how a person behaves, how a person feels. People can be talkative, reserved, active, calm, adventurous, or careful. Invite everyone to share, if they wish, what personality traits they see in themselves. Talk about the importance of learning from each other and seeing from different points of view.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Jesus reminded Martha that making time for God is important. Taking time to pray during the day keeps us focused on God. Spend time memorizing the two short prayers below with your family.

Good morning God. Guide me through the day. I put my trust in you. Amen

Good night God. Thank you for all you have given me. I rest in your love. Amen

HEARTS AND HANDS ACTIVITY

Supplies: safety scissors, yarn, construction paper, pencils, hole punch, beads, black markers

- How were both Mary and Martha trying to show their love for Jesus?
- In terms of your faith, do you think you're more of a doer (like Martha) or a listener (like Mary)? Explain.

Jesus loves for us to spend time with him: reading his Word, talking to him in prayer, and listening for him to speak. Jesus wants our hearts more than our work. Let's make something to remind us to put Jesus first.

Trace each of your hands on construction paper, and cut them out. Cut out 3 heart shapes. Punch two holes, one above the other, on either side of the hand and heart shapes. Alternate threading the hand and hearts on the yarn. Separate each shape by stringing on a few beads between them. On the center heart, write "Hands to work, hearts to God."

BEADED BOOKMARKS

Supplies: Jewelry cording, medium sized beads, card stock, hole punch, scissors, pens.

Mary and Martha had different gifts. Romans 12:6 says this: *We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us.*

God gives us different gifts. How should we use those gifts? Ask each person what they think their gifts are.

Hand out an index cards or other card stock to each person. Punch a hole in one end. Have each person write out the Bible verse above from Romans 12:6. Thread the card onto the string/cording. Tie a double knot 2 inches from each end. Choose several beads to thread at both ends of the string. Then tie off each end as close as possible to the base of the beads. Clip off any extra string.

PRAY

Gather together in a circle and pray this action prayer together. Have kids repeat after you:

God, we come together to worship and learn about you. (link elbows)

We praise you in our joys. (stand on tip toes)

We support each other in our sorrows. (bend knees)

In your love we meet, (step in)

And in you love we part (step out).

Be with us wherever we are. (unlink elbows)

Shine through us wherever we go. (raise arms)

Amen (lower arms)