

Jesus Visits Mary And Martha

Luke 10:38-42

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 29:2

Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many “feet” sheets (provided with your curriculum), pencils, crayons, and scissors as the number of children in your class.

Ten beans for each child in your class, and as many bowls and small prizes (pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.) as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Busy, Busy Martha

Write on the chalkboard the memory verse for today’s lesson and instruct your class to begin memorizing it (for younger children read it aloud several times). While your class is concentrating on memorization, ask them distracting questions like “What color hair does the person have next to you?” or “What is today’s date?” or “What is your favorite color?” For younger children give them several commands like “take off your shoes”, or “walk around the table twice” or “sit down and clap three times.”

After distracting your class to the best of your ability with these questions and commands, erase the chalkboard and ask for volunteers to recite the memory verse. This should be fairly difficult. Make the point that without giving all of our attention to the task at hand it is very difficult to accomplish anything.

Explain to the class that today we are going to learn about two ladies, one who was very distracted by tasks and the other who concentrated on the words of Jesus.

LESSON TIME!

Has your family ever invited a good friend to come over to your house to visit? What are some of the things your family did to get ready for your friend's visit? What did you do when they got there? There may be a lot of things that need to be prepared in order to have a visitor over.

Today we will hear about two sisters, Mary and Martha, who had a visit from a very special friend. And while this friend visited, Martha learned a very valuable lesson that we hope to learn today. She learned that **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.**

LUKE 10:38

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

As Jesus journeyed, He arrived at a little village called Bethany. Two sisters, Mary and Martha, who believed the teachings of Jesus, lived there. Martha invited Jesus into their home. That is a very important invitation. All of us should invite Jesus into our homes. Our lives become the "home" of Jesus when we invite Him in to become our Savior and Lord. He comes in and inhabits us. He dwells within us and desires to live His life out through us.

We want Jesus to be comfortable in the home He makes inside our lives. We want to have the things that would be pleasing to Him on the walls of our mind. We want to have each room set in order. He loves it when we invite Him into the "home" of our lives and ask Him to show us what needs cleaning up. What would He like to change in us?

It is wonderful to invite Jesus into our lives and our homes. He makes everything right in both places. **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.**

Martha invited Jesus into her home. Let's see if He desires to make any changes in her life.

LUKE 10:39

And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

Jesus' Feet

Pass out as many "feet" sheets as the number of children in your class (provided with your curriculum). Have them color and decorate and/or cut them out however they want.

While they are coloring their feet, ask them some questions about sitting at someone's feet. If we sit by someone's feet all day long, what will we see? What will we hear? What will we learn about that person? Explain that it would be hard to be right by someone all day long and not learn quite a lot about him or her.

There was someone else at Martha's home when Jesus came to visit. It was her sister Mary. She began to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him. Wouldn't it be wonderful to sit at Jesus' feet for a few hours! Did you know that when you ask Jesus into your heart, He comes and lives inside of you, and you can sit at his feet and listen to Him through His Word (the Bible) anytime you want? He is always available to us. **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.**

LUKE 10:40

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

What does the Bible say Martha was doing? What kind of serving do you think she was busy with? Perhaps she was cooking up a delicious meal to serve to Jesus and there was a lot to do: carrots to peel, dishes to wash, the table to set and cakes to bake. She wanted to feed Jesus a wonderful meal, but Mary was not helping her. She became upset that her sister was not helping.

Martha calls Jesus “Lord” but tells Him what to do! What did she want Jesus to do? If someone is truly our Master, do we tell them what to do? No. We do what they tell us to do. Martha needed to remember that Jesus is the Lord, which means that we do what He says, not the other way around.

Have you ever become upset because something did not seem to be very fair? Maybe you felt like your little brother or sister did not have to do as many chores around the house as you did or that you were working harder at something than someone else. It is hard not to, but we should never compare ourselves with others. We need to leave that up to the Lord. We can only ask ourselves if we are doing what He has asked us to do and not worry about anyone else.

LUKE 10:41

And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.”

Martha was not at Jesus’ feet with Mary. Mary wanted to sit and listen to every word He spoke so she could become more like Him. Martha was not at His feet. Because she was far off from Jesus, she found herself troubled and without peace in her heart. She was missing out on hearing Jesus because she was so busy. No one will ever be fully at peace if they are not sitting at Jesus’ feet, inviting Him to be in charge and desiring to live by what He says. **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.**

Sometimes life can become troubling for us. We find ourselves worried about many things like Martha. It is during these times that we need to draw closer to Jesus. It is sitting at Jesus' feet where we will find peace. If we look at our problems we will just get more worried.

LUKE 10:42

"But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

One Thing Is Needed

Give ten beans and a bowl to each child in your class. Tell them that you are going to read the passage of scripture for today's lesson again and instruct them to put one bean in their bowls each time you read the word "and."

There are nine "ands" in this passage. Each child should have only one bean left at the end of your reading. If you have one or two children with the correct number of beans left, reward them with the privilege of passing out a small prize.

Walk your class once more through the reading of the Scripture passage, this time counting each and every "and." When each child has only one bean left, point out that that is the number of things Jesus said is needed (one). Ask your class to tell you what that one thing is. **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.**

Jesus told Martha, and He is telling us that there is only one simple thing that is needed, to make Him the most important person in our lives. **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.** When He is in charge, everything else will turn out right. He would let Mary know when it was time to cook and bake, but she was doing the right thing by sitting and listening to Him. She was not being lazy. She was choosing to make Him her Master and to learn from every

word He spoke. He let Martha know He would never take that away from Mary. Mary had chosen that one thing which most pleased Jesus, to be spending quality time with Him, not distracted by the world. Mary knew that **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.**

Jesus wants us to choose that same simple thing, to bring our hearts quietly before Him, eager to hear and obey Him. We will find peace at Jesus' feet. If we move too far from Him, we will be like Martha, distracted with the worries of life. In Jesus is peace. Mary knew the secret; stay close to Jesus and listen to His Word, fellowship with Him. We must read our Bibles and talk to Him. We must stay close to Jesus, because **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him.**

What are some ways we can stay close to Jesus? You can discuss them as a class.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to stay close to Jesus. If there are any children who have not received Christ, give them an opportunity to do so.

