

LESSON 3

MARY AND MARTHA

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Invites Us to Listen

SCRIPTURE: [Luke 10](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus and His disciples enter the home of two sisters. Martha busies herself with all the things to be done while Mary does what's most important—sitting at Jesus' feet and listening.

Free Play

Declaration

Worship

Snack

Prayer and Blessing

God's Big Story

Activity: Actions Game

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

I relate to Martha in this week's Scripture passage. I always have a to-do list going. When there is an event happening, as simple as inviting people over to my home, I start preparing by thinking about all the tasks that need to happen before those people arrive.

What about you? Do you find yourself identifying those tasks that need to be completed? Perhaps as you are preparing for this week's lesson, you have a list of things to do: printables to print and cut apart, supplies to locate in the closet or purchase from the store, a room to set up, and the list continues. Have you taken time to pause and sit at Jesus' feet as you prepare?

Read [Luke 10:38–42](#). Jesus reminded Martha (and He reminds us!) in verse 42, "Really, only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken away from her."

Spending time with Jesus—sitting at His feet and soaking in His presence—will prepare you far better than crossing anything off your to-do list. Gathering supplies and being physically prepared is still important, but how much more important it is to be spiritually prepared as you lead your kids in understanding that Jesus invites us to listen.

What is Jesus saying to you today? Pause, be still, listen, and let His words become the most important thing you hear today.

DID YOU KNOW?**WHO?**

Martha and Mary were sisters of Lazarus, who Jesus raised from the dead. The three became dear friends of Jesus. [John 12](#) records Mary pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet the week before His death, likely a different event from the anointing recorded in [Luke 7](#).

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**WHAT?**

Martha invited Jesus into her home, then became busy with household duties. She was upset with her sister Mary for sitting and listening to Jesus instead of helping her. But Jesus explained that Mary had chosen what was best by listening to Jesus.

WHERE?

According to [John 11:1](#), Mary and Martha lived in the village of Bethany. Bethany was in the region of Judea, about two miles east of Jerusalem on the other side of the Kidron Valley.

WHEN?

[Luke 10:38–42](#) takes place sometime during Jesus' ministry while He was in Judea. It is sometimes understood as the same event described in [John 12:1–11](#), which occurred shortly before Jesus' death. However, its placement in [Luke](#) suggests it was an earlier, separate event.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

This story highlights how important it is that Christians be rooted to Jesus as they participate in God's kingdom work. Those who attempt to serve Jesus without taking time to sit at His feet will miss out on what is most important. Listening to Jesus is vital.

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you are here at church today! Who likes to play with blocks? Let's see if we can build a tower out of blocks together! To build our tower, you need to use your listening ears. Where are your ears? Allow kids to respond. **Good job! Our ears help us listen! Listen carefully for your name and then listen for what I say to do.**

Allow the kids to help you build a tower out of blocks by giving them instructions one at a time, such as "Ellie, can you bring me a blue block?" If you find that colors are too hard for your group, just have the kids bring you any block!

You did a great job listening for my instructions and helping build a tower! Today we are going to hear about someone who listened to Jesus.

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS INVITES US TO LISTEN.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—*Point up.*

INVITES US—*Point at self.*

TO LISTEN—*Cup ear*

Clean Up

At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help clean up toys to prepare for worship, snack, and story time. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots to say the declaration together.

Declaring God's Wonder

I'm so glad to be here with all of you. Stand up and repeat after me!

Thank You, God, that You made me! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today, we're learning that Jesus invites us to listen. Let's sing and praise Jesus to show Him we are listening for Him!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

Snack

SUPPLIES: small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids around snack tables and serve snack. After praying, begin the Bible story while kids are busy eating.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

Dear Jesus, Thank You for inviting us to listen. Help us remember to listen to You every day. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God show you this week just how much He loves you! Listen to Jesus and believe that He knows you and He cares for you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Our story today is a great story from the Bible about two people named Mary and Martha. Encourage the kids to say, “Mary and Martha.” **Let’s find out from the Bible what happened to Mary and Martha!**

Today we’re going to hear about a time Jesus went to visit some sisters named Mary and Martha. When you hear me say, “Martha,” stand up and pretend you are sweeping with a broom (demonstrate a sweeping action). **Let’s practice!**

When you hear me say, “Mary,” cup your ear like this (demonstrate cupping your ear like you are listening). **Let’s practice listening! Great! That’s exactly what we can do right now—listen to our true story from the Bible.**

When Jesus did God’s work, He went many places. One place He went was to the house of two sisters named Martha (pause for kids to stand and sweep) **and Mary** (pause for kids to listen).

Martha (pause for kids to stand and sweep) **had a lot to do because Jesus was there. There was so much to do! She got busy, busy, busy.**

Her sister, Mary (pause for kids to cup their ears), **sat at Jesus’ feet while He talked. She listened to what Jesus said. She was sitting still.**

Martha (pause for kids to stand and sweep) **was not happy that Mary** (pause for kids to cup their ears) **was just sitting and listening to Jesus. But Jesus told her that Mary** (pause for kids to cup their ears) **made the best choice by listening to Jesus.**

Listening to Jesus is the best thing we can do. It is even more important than doing nice things for Jesus. Jesus invites us to listen!

Activity: Actions Game

Let’s sing a song together to help us practice being good listeners. In this song, you will listen for different parts of your body to be called out. When you hear the name of a part of your body, point to it on your body!

Sing the song “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” with the kids as you all point to each part of the body that the song mentions. Invite the kids to sing along with you.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes; knees and toes.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes; knees and toes.

Eyes and ears and mouth and nose.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes; knees and toes.

Repeat as time allows.

Great listening! Remember, we can listen to Jesus like Mary did! He may not talk out loud to us, but we can hear from Him through the Bible, our church leaders or parents, worship, or prayer.