

SPECIAL PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE (NT)

LESSON 2: MARY AND MARTHA ☆

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In this lesson, the children will discover how to be aware of Jesus and when to give Him their special attention.

TOPICS

Following Jesus, Listening, Mary and Martha, Paying Attention, Spiritual Growth

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

Before class, set up two tables as follows: On one table, have coloring pages and crayons, or paper to draw on. You can also have other items that are quiet, such as puzzles or picture books. On the other table, place items that can be noisy, such as toy trucks, musical instruments, toy tools, etc.

Either let the children decide which table they would like to sit and play at, or decide for them as they arrive. After a few minutes of play, clear the tables and discuss the following:

1. Which table was most quiet?
2. Which table was the noisiest?
3. Can you have fun and be quiet at the same time?
4. Can you name a time when we should be quiet?
5. When is it okay to be noisy?

Suggestion: To help the children take turns answering these questions, use one of the suggestions found in the following: **Who Talks Next (Teaching Aid)** [Click here](#)

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

BIBLE VERSE (5 MINUTES)

"Let us keep looking to Jesus," Hebrews 12:2a NIRV

Explain to the children that looking to Jesus means to give Him our special attention, so we can grow closer to Him. Not only with our eyes, but with our heart and soul.

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Gather the children around you for story time. After the introduction, read the Children's version of the story about Jesus visiting Mary and Martha. As an option, you can read the story directly from the Bible.

Introduction:

Our Bible story today is about two women, whom Jesus loved very much. But when Jesus came to visit them, one woman was too busy to enjoy His company. Let's read our story to find out what she was doing.

Jesus Visits Mary and Martha (Story) [Click here](#)
(Option) Read Luke 10:38-41

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the names of the two women Jesus came to visit? (*Mary and Martha.*)
2. What was Mary doing while Jesus was visiting? (*Sitting down listening to Him.*)
3. What was Martha doing while Mary was listening to Jesus? (*Busy preparing the meal.*)
4. Did Martha want Mary to help her? (*Yes.*)
5. Was Mary or Martha doing the right thing at the time? (*Mary.*)
6. If Jesus came to your house today, would you want to be with Him, or outside playing? (*Allow for discussion.*)

FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Like Mary or Martha? (Game) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Busy or Growing Closer to Jesus? (Activity) [Click here](#)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

Bring two different types of cookies, such as chocolate and vanilla sandwich cookies. Give the children one of each type. After praying and thanking God for the lesson and treats, explain to the children how the two different cookies can be like Mary and Martha. Each cookie is very good to eat. Just like Mary and Martha were both wonderful people. They were good friends of Jesus, and He loved them both. However, we should remember that sometimes we want to be more like Mary and at other times more like Martha. Sometimes we may want a chocolate cookie, and other times we may want a vanilla cookie. Today, let's enjoy them both.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 MINUTES)

Bring the quiet and noisy toys back out and set them up as in the opening activity. Let the children again go to whichever table they want to play until being picked up.

NEXT WEEK

Come back next week to learn about more special people in the Bible.

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. [Click here](#)

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LIKE MARY OR MARTHA? ☆

Two teams identify characteristics of Mary and Martha to win this game.

TOPICS:

Following Jesus, Listening, Mary and Martha, Spiritual Growth

MATERIALS:

Copy of situations [Click here](#)
14 Index Cards, Masking tape

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



PREPARATION:

Prepare the index cards before class. Print one copy of the Situations page and cut out each of the situations. Then tape or glue one situation to each index card. Place the cards in a paper bag and mix them up.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Divide the class into two teams. One team will be the "Mary" team, and the other will be the "Martha" team. Have each team line up with their backs on opposite walls. Use masking tape to make a finish line in the middle of the room an equal distance from each team. You will have one child pick an index card from a bag and give it to you. You will read the situation written on it. If the situation is like Mary, the "Mary" team takes one giant step towards the center finish line. If the situation is more like Martha, the "Martha" team takes one giant step towards the finish line. The first team to reach the finish line wins the game.

So that everyone is a winner, continue to draw situations out of the bag until the other team crosses the finish line. Everyone can still guess if the situation is more like Mary, or more like Martha. Also more steps are needed to reach the finish line, you can repeat the situations.

Note: The purpose of this game is not to suggest that either woman is better or more acceptable than the other. Jesus loved both Mary and Martha the same. Use this game to reinforce the idea that there are times when we should be more like Mary, and other times when it is okay to be more like Martha.

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Situations

Cut out each of the situations shown below. Then tape or glue one situation to an index card.

Michael sits quietly with mom and dad in church, and tries to listen. *(Mary)*

Mommy reads a bedtime story from the Bible. Rebecca listens and looks at the pictures. *(Mary)*

The pastor is over for dinner. Eric plays quietly so the pastor and his parents can talk. *(Mary)*

It is time to pray. Amy closes her eyes and bows her head. *(Mary)*

Jason wants to play his new drum, but patiently waits until after church. *(Mary)*

At Sunday school, Ryan learns about how much Jesus loves him. *(Mary)*

Ashley sits quietly as her dad reads her a story. *(Mary)*

Michael is running up and down the halls having fun at church. *(Martha)*

Mommy wants to read her Bible. Rebecca will not stop making noise. *(Martha)*

The pastor (or pastor's name) comes over to talk with mom and dad. Eric keeps interrupting. *(Martha)*

It is time to pray. Amy keeps playing with her toy truck. *(Martha)*

Jason will not stop playing his drum, even though it is time to go to church. *(Martha)*

At Sunday school, Ryan would rather play than learn about Jesus. *(Martha)*

Ashley wiggles and squirms while dad tries to read her a story. *(Martha)*