

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.

WORD OF WONDER: Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest.

—Matthew 11:28

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Multisensory Activity: Listen and Draw
- Welcome Question: What sounds do you hear throughout your week?
- Curiosity Questions
- SMALL GROUP
- Prayer of Invitation
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Worship: Praise You Anywhere, Take You At Your Word
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: Worthy of it All
- Blessing Your Kids



Walking With Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Invites Us to Listen

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10

WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

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.

—**Ana Dutton**

Children's Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

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.

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.

Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Invites Us to Listen

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10

WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

Multisensory Activity: Listen and Draw

7-10 MINUTES PRE-SERVICE

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), drawing utensils, clipboards (1 per kid, optional)

SLIDE: LISTEN AND DRAW

Ahead of time, recruit another leader to distract the kids during this activity. As you tell the kids what to draw, this leader will create distractions by making funny faces, skipping around the room, talking loudly to kids while they are drawing, waving arms in the air while jumping around, singing a song, etc.

Hand a blank sheet of paper and drawing utensils to each kid. If clipboards are available, hand one to each kid to clip her paper to. **"Today we're going to do a listening activity. I'm going to describe a scene for you. Step by step, I will tell you what to draw on your paper. Listen to me and then draw. Don't get distracted, or you might miss an important instruction!"**

Each of you is going to draw a playground scene. Start by drawing a medium-sized slide in the middle of your paper. Pause and allow time for kids to draw. The other leader will distract kids while you are giving instructions and while the kids draw. Do your best to pretend to ignore the distractions. **Next draw a tree on either side of the slide.** Pause for kids to draw as the leader continues to distract them. **Now draw fruit on the tree.** Pause again for kids to draw and the leader to distract. **OK. Draw two birds in the sky.** Pause for kids to draw and the leader to continue distracting. **Next draw yourself going down the slide.** Pause again. **Finally, draw a sun in the sky.**



Pause one last time for kids to finish their drawing while the other leader creates distractions.

Your drawings are amazing! Hold them up and let's see how you all did at listening and drawing.

Admire kids' drawings and talk together about the activity, using these questions to prompt conversation:

- **Do you think your drawings match up with what I described?**
- **Did you find it easy or hard to listen and draw? Why?**
- **Did you ever get distracted?**
- **How were you able to keep listening and drawing even with distractions?**

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Up the challenge level for this activity by creating constant and increasing distractions. For example, play music in the background while you read the prompts, increasing the volume of the music as the activity progresses. (Just be sure to provide noise-canceling headphones for kids with noise sensitivities.)

Make It Inclusive!

This activity may be challenging for kids with ADHD. Their brains are already buzzing with thoughts, so to introduce an external distraction could compound their frustration or lead to undesirable behaviors. Give kids a heads-up ahead of time so they know to expect the distraction, and encourage the leader who is distracting kids to pull back as needed. You might even invite energetic kids to help the "distractor" do his job.

Your job in this activity was to listen carefully even while distractions were happening around you. Sometimes it's hard to listen and focus on what someone is saying when there are so many distractions! Today we'll hear from God's big story about a woman who understood that the most important thing we can do is listen to Jesus, even when there are distractions all around."

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS INVITES US TO LISTEN."**



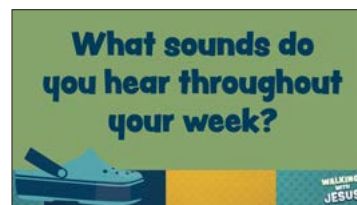
Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question: Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

"We hear so many different noises, sounds, and voices during the week. We all have people in our lives who communicate with us by talking and listening. Did you know that God also speaks to His followers and that He invites us to listen to Him? But before we discover more about that, it's time to be curious."



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to show us how much You love us. His words bring life, and we want to hear what He has to say to us. Please give us ears to hear and understand You today. Thank You for inviting us to listen to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

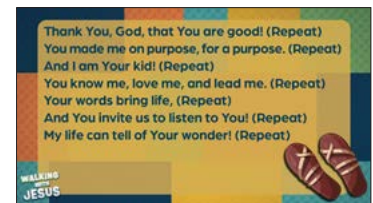
And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Your words bring life, (Kids repeat.)

And You invite us to listen to You! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **Father God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to show us how much You love us. His words bring life, and we want to hear what He has to say to us. Please give us ears to hear and understand You today. Thank You for inviting us to listen to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

Explain to kids that our story today comes from Luke 10. Remind them that Luke is one of the four Gospel books that tell the story of Jesus' life.

"Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will experience more of the story!"



VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

LESSON 3 MARY AND MARTHA EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

"Have you ever had a group of family or friends come to your house? Maybe for Christmas or Easter or a party? What kinds of things do you have to do to get ready? Allow kids to respond. How do you feel when you and your family are getting ready? Allow kids to respond. **There is so much to do when people are coming over! It's busy, busy, busy! Being busy, busy, busy makes me dizzy, dizzy, dizzy!** When you say, "busy," twirl your index finger in a circle. When you say, "dizzy," put your hands on your head and rock it gently side to side. **Can you do that with me?** Practice the words and the hand motions a few times with the kids. **It's hard to pay attention when we're busy. Now, can you make a heart shape with your hands and be as still as a statue?** Demonstrate bringing your pointer fingers and thumbs together to make a heart shape as you sit or stand very still. **With my heart still, I listen well. Can you say that too?** Have the kids repeat, "With my heart still, I listen well." **Great! Saying our hearts are still means we are focused on what we're hearing. We aren't distracted by other things. Right now, we get to listen well to part of God's big story.**

Make It Inclusive!

Having kids be still can be quite difficult, especially for kids with ADHD. Consider giving kids time to get their wiggles out by jumping, stretching, or playing a quick game before starting the Experience It! Script. For kids who truly cannot stay still, items such as wobble chairs or fidget chair bands can allow them to keep moving without distracting others.

As Jesus fulfilled His part in God's big story, He and His disciples went many places. They traveled from town to town, meeting all kinds of people. The rich and the poor. The weak and the powerful. Both men and women. Jesus' message was for everyone, and listening to Him was the most important thing anyone could do, whether they knew it or not.

All that traveling meant a lot of walking. It meant finding food and sleeping in different places all the time. It meant relying on the kindness of strangers. Sometimes people would invite Jesus and His disciples into their homes for a meal or a place to rest while Jesus taught about God's kingdom.

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Invite the kids to become more physically engaged by standing up and spinning in circles while saying, "Busy, busy, busy."

One day Jesus and His disciples were traveling through the village of Bethany, which is near the great city of Jerusalem. Two sisters named Martha and Mary lived there. Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. Then she got to work! After all, it was her responsibility to make sure her guests were well cared for. Did they need water for their dusty feet? Food for their bellies? A comfortable place to sit? **There was so much to do! Martha was busy, busy, busy! Remember?** Repeat the actions described above with the words, "Being busy, busy, busy makes me dizzy, dizzy, dizzy" and invite the kids to do the same. **I think Martha was very dizzy!**

Make It Inclusive!

This storytelling method is a great way for younger kids and kids who communicate nonverbally to be leaders. Consider having specific kids be the “motions leaders” during the telling of the story.

While Martha was busy, her sister Mary was sitting at Jesus’ feet, listening to what He said and paying attention to every word. Her heart was still, and she was focused on Jesus’ words. What did we say happens with still hearts? Pause for answers. **That’s right! Say it with me: “With my heart still, I listen well.”** Sit or stand still while making a heart shape with your hands and invite the kids to do the same.

In those days, students would sit at the feet of their teachers during a meal or banquet. The area around Jesus’ feet was the place for Jesus’ disciples, and that’s just what Mary was learning to be—a follower of Jesus. This might have appeared shocking to some. Women were not typically the students of rabbis, or teachers, in Jesus’ day. But Jesus’ message was for everyone, including a woman like Mary.

Even so, Martha was not happy with her sister’s decision to sit and listen to Jesus. There was so much work to do. Martha was busy! What happens when we’re busy? Repeat the actions described earlier with the words, “Being busy, busy, busy makes me dizzy, dizzy, dizzy” and invite the kids to join you. **Why wasn’t Mary helping her? Martha decided to do something about it. “She came to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, my sister has left me to do the work by myself. Don’t you care? Tell her to help me!’ ”** (Luke 10:40).

How did Jesus respond? Did He tell Mary to get up and help her sister? Did He tell her it was time to stop listening and get on with the work of the house? Did He want Mary to be busy, busy, busy just like Martha? Allow kids to respond. **No. Instead, He answered Martha gently. There was something important she needed to understand. “ ‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered. ‘You are worried and upset about many things. But few things are needed. Really, only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken away from her’ ”** (Luke 10:41–42).

Jesus was letting Martha know that listening to Him is the most important thing anyone can do. It’s even more important than doing nice things for Jesus. Helping others feel welcome is wonderful and busyness has its place, but if Martha never stopped to sit at Jesus’ feet like her sister, she would be missing out on something even better. Jesus has the words of life—the words everyone needs to hear. That’s why He encouraged Mary to listen, and Martha too. And even us today! Say it with me! Encourage the kids to do the motions while they repeat the words with you. **“Being busy, busy, busy makes me dizzy, dizzy, dizzy”, but “with my heart still, I listen well.” Every man, woman, boy, and girl needs the words of life that come from the mouth of Jesus, and Jesus invites us to listen.”**

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS INVITES US TO LISTEN**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

When we follow Jesus, we get to participate in God's kingdom work.

Like Martha, we might show kindness to others by cleaning or preparing food. We might help take care of younger kids or help lead worship. But it's important to remember that the most important thing we can do before any of these other things is to sit with Jesus and listen to Him."



Responding in Worship: Prayer Cards

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: WORTHY OF IT ALL

Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May God show you this week just how much He loves you! As you spend time listening to Jesus, may you believe fully that He knows you, He cares for you, and He invites you to know Him better.

0:04.00
WALKING WITH JESUS
1 WWJ Theme Loop.mp4

0:32.80
00:28
WALKING WITH JESUS
2walking_with_jesus_3...

2:03.00
01:58
WALKING WITH JESUS
3walking_with_jesus_...

Listen and Draw
WALKING WITH JESUS
4listen and Draw Slide...

Today's Wonder Truth:
Jesus Invites Us to Listen
WALKING WITH JESUS
5L3 Mary and Martha...

What sounds do you hear throughout your week?
WALKING WITH JESUS
6L3 Mary and Martha...

5:03.18
04:58
WALKING WITH JESUS
7walking_with_jesus_5...

Thank You, God, that You are good!
You made me on purpose, for a purpose.
And I am Your kid!
You know me, love me, and lead me.
Your words bring life.
And You invite us to listen to You!
My life can tell of Your wonder!
WALKING WITH JESUS
8L3 Mary and Martha...

3:39.30
Worship with Motions
WALKING WITH JESUS
9Praise You Anywhere...

3:49.10
WORD
WALKING WITH JESUS
10Take You At Your W...

WALKING WITH JESUS
11Walking With Jesus...

In God's Big Story:
Mary and Martha
Luke 10
WALKING WITH JESUS
12L3 Mary and Martha...

4:59.13
13WWJ Elen Gods Big...

WALKING WITH JESUS
14Walking With Jesus...

Today's Wonder Truth:
Jesus Invites Us to Listen
WALKING WITH JESUS
15L3 Mary and Martha...

Responding in Worship
WALKING WITH JESUS
16Responding in Wors...

4:31.47
Shout! Praises Kids
WALKING WITH JESUS
17worthy_of_it_all_...

0:04.00
WALKING WITH JESUS
18WWJ Theme Loop...