

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**

- Welcome Question: What sounds do you hear throughout your week?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Matthew 11:28
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Responding in Worship: Prayer Cards



Notes! Use the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet each week to help kids stay engaged and remember what they are learning. Encourage kids to make notes, draw pictures, and write questions throughout small group and large group. This also provides parents with resources to keep the conversation going throughout the week!



[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.

Small 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

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“What sounds do you hear throughout your week?” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **Who are some people it’s important to listen to? Why?**
- **What could happen if we get distracted while someone is sharing something important with us?**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Luke chapter 7. As kids find the passage, explain to kids that they are going to hear a true story about someone who showed her love for Jesus by anointing Him with perfume. Explain that anointing means pouring oil on someone to show they are loved or are called by God to do a special job.

Read Luke 10:38–42 aloud. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and draw a picture of the story as you read.

- **What did Martha do when Jesus visited? What did Mary do?**
- **Martha was unhappy that Mary was sitting and listening to Jesus. What did Martha do about it?** (Martha told Jesus that she was doing all the work. She asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her.)
- **Jesus told Martha that Mary had “chosen what is better” (Luke 10:42). What do you think He meant?**
- **What are ways we can listen to Jesus today?**
- **What are some things that might distract you from listening to Jesus?**
- **How will you listen to Jesus this week?**

“Jesus was patient with Martha when she was busy and distracted. He helped her understand that spending time listening to Him was so much better than anything else she could do with her time! Jesus’ invitation wasn’t just for Martha—He invites us to listen to Him too. Let’s do that right now in prayer.”

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to consider how they can hear from Jesus and spend time with Him. While we might not hear His voice audibly like Mary and Martha did, we can listen to His words by reading and memorizing verses from the Bible. We can see how wonderful God is by experiencing loving relationships or marveling at the beauty of God’s creation. And we can speak with and listen for Him by spending time in prayer.

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to share a prayer request or a praise from their past week. Then pray for each kid. Pause near the end of the prayer time to invite kids to practice listening to Jesus. Ask God to speak to each person, then be silent for several seconds as kids listen quietly in prayer.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–10 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), **Bible Story Picture (1/SG)**

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Luke chapter 7. As kids find the passage, explain to kids that they are going to hear a true story about someone who showed her love for Jesus by anointing Him with perfume. Explain that anointing means pouring oil on someone to show they are loved or are called by God to do a special job.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

Invite three volunteers to read the story aloud. The first will read Luke 10:38–39, the second will read Luke 10:40, and the third will read Luke 10:41–42.

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **What did Martha do when Jesus visited? What did Mary do? What was unusual about Mary's actions?** (Note that students during this time sat at their teachers' feet to listen, but this didn't usually include women. Jesus' message was for everyone!)
- **How did Martha feel about what Mary was doing? What did Martha do about it?** (Martha was unhappy, so she told Jesus that she was doing all the work. She asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her.)
- **What did Jesus say in response to Martha's complaints?** (See Luke 10:41–42)
- **What do you think Jesus meant when He said that Mary had "chosen what is better" (Luke 10:42)?**
- **Why do you think listening to Jesus is an important part of following Him? What are ways we can listen to Jesus today?**
- **What are some things that might distract you from listening to Jesus?**
- **How will you listen to Jesus this week?**

Jesus was patient with Martha when she was busy and distracted. He helped her understand that spending time listening to Him was so much better than anything else she could do with her time! Jesus' invitation wasn't just for Martha—He invites us to listen to Him too. Let's do that right now in prayer.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to consider how they can hear from Jesus and spend time with Him. While we might not hear His voice audibly like Mary and Martha did, we can listen to His words by reading and memorizing verses from the Bible. We can see how wonderful God is by experiencing loving relationships or marveling at the beauty of God's creation. And we can speak with and listen for Him by spending time in prayer.

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share a prayer request or a praise from their past week. Then invite them to take turns praying for one another. Near the end of the prayer time, invite kids to practice listening to Jesus. Ask God to speak to each person, then be silent for several seconds as kids listen quietly in prayer.

WORD OF WONDER

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

— Matthew 11:28 (NIRV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), **Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)**

"The Word of Wonder for the Walking with Jesus series is Matthew 11:28. Today in God's big story we saw that Jesus invites His friends to listen to Him and spend time with Him. In the Word of Wonder, we see that Jesus also invites us to bring all our burdens to Him. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!"

Have kids open their Bibles to Matthew 11:28 and read the verse several times together. Ask for a few volunteers to read the Word of Wonder aloud. Then invite the group to read the Word of Wonder aloud together.

Discuss these questions:

- **What is Jesus' invitation to us in this verse?**
- **What connections do you see between this verse and the true story of Jesus visiting Mary and Martha?**

Word of Wonder Activity

Kids will practice reciting the Word of Wonder as you lead them through a game of "Simon Says." Each "Simon says" command will be a "repeat after me" phrase or an action that the kids perform while reciting the Word of Wonder. Remember to throw in a few commands without saying, "Simon says" first! Remind kids that they must listen carefully for the phrase "Simon says" and only follow the instructions that come after those words.

You may use the following prompts or your own. (The verse quoted in these prompts is from the NIRV.)

Simon says repeat after me: "Come to me"

Simon says repeat after me: "all you who are tired"

Simon says stand on one foot and repeat after me: "and are carrying heavy loads"

Jump up and down three times!

Simon says turn in a circle and repeat after me: "I will give you rest"

Stand on your tiptoes and stretch to the sky.

Simon says sit down and repeat after me: "Matthew 11:28"

Simon says stand up and say the Word of Wonder.

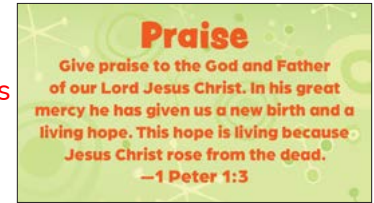
Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Make this activity a competition by having kids sit out when they follow an instruction that Simon didn't say. The last kid remaining is the winner!

Responding in Worship: Prayer Cards

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet per 2 kids), scissors (prep only), writing and coloring utensils, Bible

RESOURCES: [Prayer Card Sheet \(1 per 2 kids plus 1 extra\)](#), [Prayer Pictures NIV\(1 set/SG\)](#) [Walking with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print the Prayer Card Sheet (two-sided on cardstock), one sheet for every two kids. Cut each sheet in half to make two-sided, half-sheet prayer cards. Print Prayer pictures and cut apart.



"Today in God's big story, Mary chose the most important thing—she sat at Jesus' feet and listened. Jesus has the words of life that everyone needs to hear! And He invites each of us to pause and listen to Him!

When we pray, we get to talk and listen to Jesus. We get to bring Him the things that make us sad and angry and happy—and everything in between! Let's spend some time now talking and listening to Jesus. Set out writing and coloring utensils and hand a prayer card to each kid. Consider playing music from the [Walking with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) in the background.



Display the first PrayerPicture: Praise. **When we pray, a great place to start is with praise!** Read 1 Peter 1:3 from the picture. Hold up a prayer card and point to the section that says, "Praise."

What is something you love about Jesus? Draw or write it here as a prayer of praise. Pause for kids to draw or write.

Display the second PrayerPicture: Confess. **When we pray, we can confess to Jesus our sins—the wrong things we have done—and tell Him what distracts us from listening to Him. We can ask Him to forgive us, and He will!** Read Psalm 51:1 from the slide or directly from the Bible. Hold up a prayer card and point to the section that says, "Confess."

Think quietly about the things that distract you from listening to Jesus or the wrong things you've done. You might choose to write or draw a prayer of confession on your prayer card, or you might simply talk to Jesus silently in your heart. Allow kids time to pray quietly.

Display the third Prayer picture: Give Thanks. **Jesus loves you! He died on the cross and rose again so that your sins can be forgiven and you can live forever as God's child! When we pray, we can thank Jesus for who He is and all He has done!** Read James 1:17 from the slide or directly from the Bible. Hold up a prayer card and point to the section that says, "Give Thanks."

Take time now to say, "Thank You" to Jesus for something He has done in your life. You can write or draw your prayer on your card. Pause for kids to write and draw.

Display the fourth PrayerPicture: Listen

Jesus invites each of us to listen to Him. He is like a shepherd, and when we follow Him, we are like His sheep. It's important that we know His voice and listen to it. Read John 10:27 from the slide or directly from the Bible. Hold up a prayer card and point to the section that says, "Listen." Invite kids into a short time of listening prayer.

Listening prayer is simply asking God to speak and then listening to Him. God's Spirit might speak to you by bringing ideas or people to your mind. He might bring a Bible verse or praise song to your mind. You might be aware that God is with you and loves you. Or you might not notice anything at all—and that's OK. If you'd like, you can write or draw what you notice as you listen.

Give kids time to listen and write or draw. When they are finished, encourage them to bring their prayer cards home. They can talk with Jesus and add more to their cards throughout the week.