

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.

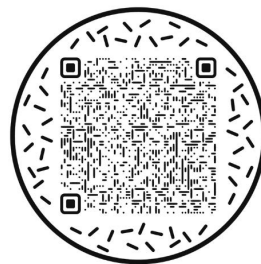
WORD OF WONDER: Come to me, all who are tired. I will give you rest. —from Matthew 11:28

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: God's Way, All I Wanna Do
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Walking With Jesus Preschool 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

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WORD OF WONDER: From 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.



LESSON 3 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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: From Matthew 11:28

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat Picture or puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Let's see if our friend Tac, the curious cat, is around today! Tac, are you here?

Tac the Cat: Hey, everyone! I just got back from the park.

Leader: I love going to the park! Did you have fun?

Tac the Cat: It was fun, but I was kind of sad too.

Leader: Why were you sad?

Tac the Cat: Well, my friend asked me to go play at the park with him. We were going to have so much fun, but we had only a little bit of time before we had to go back home. We got there, and I realized that the bow on my collar had come untied. So I sat down on the bench and tried to tie it back on, but, you see, I'm not very good at tying bows yet. So it was taking me a while to do it.

Leader: Yeah, it can be hard to tie a bow! But why did that make you sad?

Tac the Cat: Well, my friend kept asking me to come play, but I kept saying, "In a minute" and trying to tie my bow. But then, before I knew it, his mom said we had to leave, and I never got time to play with my friend!

Leader: Oh, I see why you were sad. You were distracted by your bow; that means you were paying attention to your bow instead of your friend. You missed out on spending time with your friend.

Tac the Cat: Yeah, I guess my bow wasn't so important. I should have just waited until I got home to mess with it and spent time doing what was more important—hanging out with my friend!

Leader: Sometimes we can be so busy doing things that we miss out on what's really important. Hey, that reminds me of a story from the Bible.

Tac the Cat: What story is that?

Leader: It's a story about someone listening to Jesus. We're going to hear more about it in a little bit!

Tac the Cat: I want to listen to Jesus! That sounds like an important thing to do. I think I'm going to go spend some time talking to Jesus and listening while I pray.

Leader: Sounds like a good idea, Tac. See you later!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever been busy with something and missed out on something really important? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever just stopped to listen for God? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God wants us to listen?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS INVITES US TO LISTEN**. Today we'll discover how Jesus invites us to listen!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

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.)

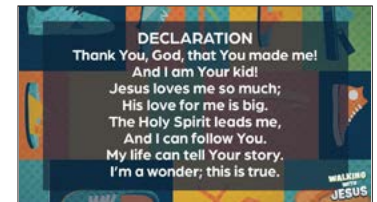
March in place like you're following the leader.

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").



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.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn about how Jesus invites us to listen. Let's sing about Jesus together!"

WORSHIP SONGS: God's Way, All I Wanna Do

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Luke, which is one of the first four books of the Bible—the Gospels."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible

"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 rotate it. **Can you do that with me?** Practice the words and the hand motions a few times with the kids. **It can be hard to pay attention to other things when we're busy. Quick! 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, "My heart is still" means we're paying attention to what we're hearing. We aren't distracted by other things. Being distracted means not paying attention to the right thing. Right now, we get to listen to part of God's big story.**

Leader Tip: To make this story more active, you could have kids stand up and spin in a circle for busy, busy, busy instead of using their fingers.

When Jesus did God's work, He went many places. Jesus and His followers walked a long way! Sometimes people invited them into their houses. So Jesus met lots of people.

One day Jesus and His disciples were in a place called Bethany. Two sisters named Martha and Mary lived there. Martha asked Jesus to come to their home. Then she got to work! She had a lot to do because Jesus was there! It was her job to take care of her guests. Did they need water to wash their dusty feet? Food to eat? A nice place to sit? There was so much to do! Martha got 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!**

Martha did a lot of work! While Martha was busy, her sister Mary sat at Jesus' feet while He talked. Mary listened to what Jesus said. She listened to every word. She was sitting with her heart still.

What did we say happens when our hearts are still? Pause for answers. **That's right! Say it with me: "With my heart still, I listen well."** Stand or sit up straight with your hands folded and invite the kids to do the same.

People who wanted to learn from Jesus sat at His feet. Mary wanted to learn from Him. Mary was learning to be a follower of Jesus.

Martha was not happy that Mary was just sitting and listening to Jesus. There was so much work to do. Martha was busy! What happens when we are busy? Repeat the actions described above with the words “Being busy, busy, busy makes me dizzy, dizzy, dizzy” and invite the kids to join you. **Martha wanted Mary to help her! Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, my sister has left me to do the work by myself. Don’t you care? Tell her to help me!”** (Luke 10:40).

Did Jesus tell Mary to get up and help her sister? Did He tell Mary to stop listening and do work? No. He said gently to Martha, “You are worried and upset about many things. But few things are needed. Really, only one thing is needed. Mary chose what is better. And it will last forever” (from Luke 10:41–42).

Listening to Jesus is the most important thing that anyone can do. It is even more important than doing nice things for Jesus. It is good to take care of others. But it is better to listen to Jesus’ words. Everyone needs to hear Jesus’ words. Jesus wanted Mary and Martha to listen. He even wants us to listen! 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.”** Everyone needs the words of life from Jesus. Jesus invites us to listen.”

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

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

When we follow Jesus, we get to be a part of 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.”

Prayer and Blessing

Pray over kids and thank God for helping them listen for what He has to say.

Father God, thank You for speaking to us. Help us listen to what You have to say. May You continue to speak to us all throughout this week. 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! 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.