

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

- Play Stations:
 - Let's Clean Up!
 - Let's Listen!
 - Mary and Martha Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: From Matthew 11:28
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Tic-Tac-Toe Review
- LARGE GROUP
- Craft: Listening Ears
- Game: Sweeping Relays
- Responding in Worship: Prayer Stations



[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

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: play brooms, dustpans, dusters, rags, disposable cups (6), jingle bells, rocks, dry beans, pom-poms, paper clips, coins, tissue paper, rubber bands (6), coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [Mary and Martha Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Let's Clean Up!

Set-up: Set out play brooms, dustpans, dusters, rags, and other kid-friendly cleaning supplies.

Play: Kids can pretend they are preparing the room for a special guest by pretending to sweep, dust, and clean the room. If there are toys sitting out, encourage the kids to clean them up.

Play Station: Let's Listen!

Set-up: Before kids arrive, fill six disposable cups with different items that make sounds, such as jingle bells, rocks, dry beans, pom-poms, paper clips, and coins. Cover the top of the cup with a piece of tissue paper and secure it with a rubber band so the items inside are not visible.

Play: Kids can take turns shaking the cups and listening to the sounds to try to guess what is inside.

Play Station: Mary and Martha Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Mary and Martha Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn their sheets over and draw a picture of someone they listen to.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

Come to me, all who are tired. I will give you rest.

—from Matthew 11:28

Practice saying the Word of Wonder together a few times. Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **COME TO ME,**—Fan one arm toward your body, as if inviting someone to come with you.
- **ALL**—Spread your arms out in a circle.
- **WHO ARE TIRED.**—Pretend to sleep.
- **I WILL GIVE YOU REST.**—Cross arms over your chest.
- **FROM MATTHEW 11:28**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

"Let's play a game to practice our Word of Wonder! We are going to play Simon Says. Make sure you listen carefully to see if I say, "Simon says" first. If I don't, make sure you don't do what I say!"

Continue reciting the Word of Wonder as you lead the kids through a game of Simon Says. Each "Simon says ..." command will include an action that the kids perform while reciting the Word of Wonder. Remember to add in a few commands without "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 can use the following prompts or add your own:

- **Simon says ... repeat after me: "Come to me"**
- **Simon says ... repeat after me: "all who are tired"**
- **Jump up and down three times!** (*Simon didn't say!*)
- **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 didn't say!*)
- **Simon says ... sit down and repeat after me: "from Matthew 11:28"**
- **Simon says ... stand up and say the Word of Wonder: "Come to me, all who are tired. I will give you rest." From Matthew 11:28.**

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some "heavy loads" that you think kids may carry?** (*This may be a difficult concept for kids, so you can offer ideas such as being sick, parents going through a divorce, moving to a new place, getting in trouble, feeling lonely, being afraid, fights with friends.*)
- **How does God give us rest? How you feel when you pray and talk to God?**

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: Bible, Laugh and Grow Bible (1/SG)

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."

Read pages 288–291 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.

Circle Time: Tic-Tac-Toe Review

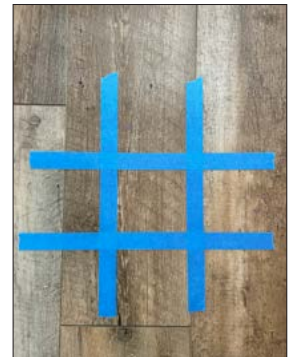
SUPPLIES: painter's tape, beanbags (10 total, equal numbers of 2 different colors), cups (10 total, equal numbers of 2 different colors, optional), X's and O's (5 each, optional)

Use painter's tape to make a large Tic-Tac-Toe board on the floor, like this: #

Place 10 beanbags of two different colors (five of each color), 10 cups of two colors (five of each color), or papers with X's and O's on them nearby. Gather kids in a circle around the Tic-Tac-Toe board.

"Let's play a listening game to help us review what we learned! We're going to pass a beanbag (or cup or letter) around the circle. But you need to listen carefully! I'm going to clap twice, and whoever is holding the beanbag will get to answer a question. If that person answers the question correctly, she gets to place a beanbag (or cup or an X or an O) on the game board. Then we'll pass the next beanbag (or cup or an X or an O) around the circle and play again. Whoever has the beanbag each time I clap twice can put it anywhere on the board. Whoever gets three in a row on the game board first is the winner!"

Have kids start passing the beanbag around the circle. After a few passes, clap twice. The kid who has the beanbag gets to answer one of the discussion questions below. After he answers, he can place it anywhere on the board he likes. For the next round, use a beanbag of the opposite color and pass it around the circle beginning where the other bag left off. Continuing playing alternating colors as you go until someone creates a line of three of the same color.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was busy, busy, busy in our story?** (Martha)
- **Who sat with her heart still and listened to Jesus?** (Mary)
- **Did Jesus tell Mary to get up and help her sister? Why, or why not?** (No, Jesus said Mary chose what was most important.)
- **When do you find it hardest to listen?**
- **What things in your life make you busy, busy, busy?**
- **How can you listen to Jesus more this week?**
- **What do you think Jesus might be saying to you? Have you ever felt like He was telling you something through a Bible verse or story, prayer, or worship?**

Sometimes we can be so busy that we don't take time to sit still and listen. But Jesus wants us to talk with Him and listen to Him. Let's spend some time listening and talking with Him now in prayer."

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for helping them listen.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Craft: Listening Ears

SUPPLIES: kid-safe scissors, tape, coloring utensils, strips of white paper to use for extra headband length if needed.

RESOURCES: [Listening Ears \(1 per kid\)](#)

Leader Tip: Be sensitive to kids who are deaf or hard of hearing. Even those who can't hear can still listen to God. Remind kids that God speaks to our hearts, and we can feel it. He also speaks to us through the Bible, through nature, or through other people.

Ahead of time, print a copy of Listening Ears for each kid. Cut out ears and strips

"Today we're learning that Jesus invites us to listen! We're going to make some listening ears to help us remember to listen to Jesus.

Hand out a set of Listening Ears to each kid. Have the kids color the ears, and (if not done previously) instruct them to cut out the ears and strips of paper. Once the ears and bands are colored and cut out, help the kids tape the two bands together to create a circle that will fit around their heads like a headband.



Make sure the Wonder Truth is readable and positioned on the front of the kids' heads. Next fold over the tabs on each of the ears and use tape to attach them to the band so that they stick out like real ears on each side.

Take your listening ears home and wear them to remember that we are invited to sit still and listen to Jesus!"

Responding in Worship: Prayer Stations

SUPPLIES: tape (prep only), tambourine (or other instrument)

RESOURCES: [Prayer Station Signs 1 set/SG](#)

Print the Prayer Station Signs and hang them in different spots around the room. Set a tambourine (or other instrument) at Prayer Station 1 ("Praise").

'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.

Lead kids to the first prayer station and have them sit down. **This sign says praise. When we praise God, we tell Him how much we love Him! Let's take a minute and praise God together. We will use our listening ears to listen to each other's praises. Whoever has the tambourine can share one thing you want to praise God for.** Let each kid share one thing to praise God for and then shake the tambourine. Encourage the other kids to listen. Once everyone has had a turn to share a praise, travel to Prayer Station 2.

This sign says be still. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God." Do you know what it means to be still before God? Let me see you all be still! At this station, we're going to sit quietly and be still before God. Encourage kids to all sit quietly and be still before God for one minute. Encourage them to think about God and listen to see what He may be saying to them. When the time is up, move to Prayer Station 3.

Our last sign says listen. I'm going to read some verses from the Bible. You can imagine that you are sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Jesus just like Mary did in our story today!

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to consider how they can hear from Jesus. While we might not hear His voice audibly like Mary and Martha did, we can listen to His words by reading the Bible. And we can speak with Him by spending time in prayer.

Read the following verses as kids listen:

John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Matthew 22:37: Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind."

Luke 6:31: Do to others as you want them to do to you.

John 10:27: My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

Jesus invites each of us to listen to Him. He is like a shepherd, and when we follow Him, we are like His sheep. We can listen to Him and follow Him every day. He may not speak out loud, but He can speak to us through the Bible, our parents or church leaders, worship, or prayer. We can spend time with Jesus and sit with Him like Mary did."