

Jesus Visits Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42

4

Lesson



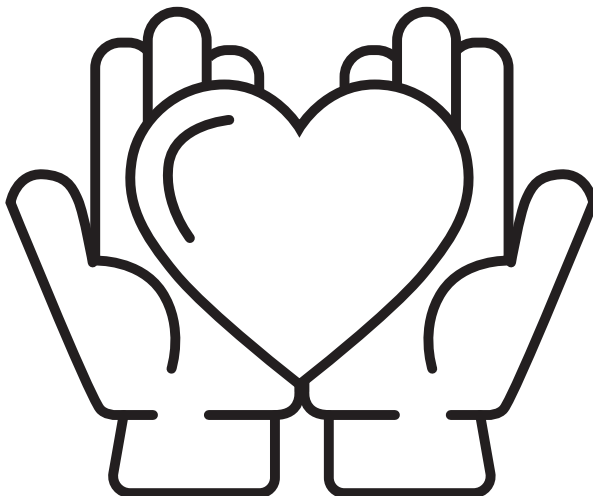
Teacher Background

What Happens: Jesus visits his friends Mary and Martha. Martha gets upset because she's doing all the cooking while Mary just sits and talks to Jesus. Jesus says it's most important to spend time with him. That's because Jesus wants to be our friend.

Why It Matters: Some kids in your group might not feel like they have enough friends. They might feel lonely or unpopular. Help them see that no matter what their social status is, Jesus wants to be their best friend!

Think About: What do you like in a friend? How does Jesus show those qualities?

Pray especially for kids who are struggling with friendships. Help them truly understand that there is someone who wants to be their friend—Jesus!



Point

Jesus wants to be our friend.



Key Verse

“But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, ‘Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.’ ”

Isaiah 43:1

QUICK TIP

Spend time showing friendship to the kids in your class each week. You'll notice that Two or More lessons often ask you to share about your life with kids. That's intentional—to help grow your relationships with them. Also try to remember things kids share about, and ask follow-up questions in later weeks. Kids will know church is a place where they have a great friend in Jesus—and you!



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Our friends are people we like to do things with.

ASK: Tell about one of your friends. What do you like to do together? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: It's fun to spend time with our friends and do things together.

➡ **Jesus wants to be our friend** and spend time with us. He wants to be our friend because he loves us and wants to be with us.

Today we'll learn that ➡ **Jesus wants to be our friend**. We'll dig into the Bible to find out about it. The Bible is God's special book. God uses the Bible to talk to us. He's always here, and he wants to talk to you today—and every day!



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible



PREPARE FOR GUESTS

SAY: I have big news! The king of England is going to be visiting us today, and he'll be here in five minutes! OK, not really...but let's pretend it's true! What do we need to do to get our room ready for the king?

Allow a few minutes for kids to do whatever they deem necessary, such as cleaning, fixing up their appearance, and decorating. If there are supplies kids require but don't have, invite them to use their imaginations and pretend to do those things—act them out.

SAY: OK, we're ready for the king. Now imagine that your best friend was actually our visitor.

ASK: What's the name of one of your best friends? Let kids call out answers.

ASK: Imagine someone like [some of the names kids called out] is headed here in five minutes. What would you do to get ready?

SAY: In today's Bible story, we'll see what some people did to prepare for Jesus as a guest.

ASK: Do you think making things ready for Jesus would be more like preparing for the king of England or for your best friend? Explain.

SAY: Well, let's find out what happened in the Bible!

EXPLORE THE STORY

 Open your Bible to Luke 10, and show kids the words.

SAY: In the verses I'm about to read, Jesus is sometimes called Jesus and sometimes called Lord.

 Read Luke 10:38-40.

SAY: Martha welcomed Jesus by preparing a big dinner. Mary welcomed Jesus by listening to him.

ASK: Which one is more like how we just got ready for our guests?

SAY: Let's see what Jesus said to Martha when she wanted Mary to help her.

 Read Luke 10:41-42.

ASK: What do you think about Jesus' answer?

SAY: ➡ **Jesus wants to be our friend.** I'm sure he would have enjoyed the delicious dinner Martha was cooking, too. But what he really wanted was quality time with his friends!

Jesus is the king—more powerful than the king of England! But even so, he just wants you to spend some time with him like a friend! And we can also show others we're Jesus' friends. I have a fun idea for how to do that!





SUPPLIES

- alphabet and symbol cube beads
- pipe cleaners

EASY PREP

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

QUICK TIP

Check your beads ahead of time to be sure you have enough J's for each child to have one. If not, use a permanent marker to turn some I's into J's!

QUICK TIP

If you're expecting a group of mostly younger kids who can't read, prepare individual bags of beads ahead of time, choosing letters to spell "Jesus." Then walk kids through each letter to add, one at a time.

CHOOSE BEADS AND MAKE A WRISTBAND

SAY: ➡ **Jesus wants to be our friend.** Sometimes friends wear friendship bracelets or wristbands as a symbol of friendship. Let's make really cool friendship wristbands to wear to show we're glad that Jesus is our friend.

- Have non-readers pair up with older kids—or you—who'll help them make this craft.
- Show kids the sample craft so they know what their wristbands will look like. Have them choose a color of pipe cleaner they like. Invite kids to think of a short message they could put on their wristband with the letter and symbol beads (if any), such as "Jesus is my BFF" or "I <3 Jesus." Then kids can work with a friend, as needed, to find the necessary letters and spell the words with the beads.
- Have kids slide their chosen beads onto their pipe cleaners to create their "friend of Jesus" messages.
- Show partners how to help each other put on their wristbands and twist the ends of the chenille wire together so it's not too tight around the wrist but not so loose that it'll fall off.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How can other people tell who your friends are?

ASK: How can people tell if Jesus is your friend?

ASK: How can your wristband help others know Jesus is your friend?

SAY: Mary was friends with Jesus, so she liked to sit and listen to him. Martha was friends with Jesus, and she served him. ➡ **Jesus wants to be our friend.** He wants to spend time with us.

Encourage kids to take their wristbands home and wear them or put them on their backpacks.





PLAY CHARADES

SAY: Jesus visited Mary and Martha—two of his followers and friends. We know they ate and talked together. I wonder what things you like to do with your friends. Let's find out!

- Go first, silently acting out something you like to do with friends. It might be swimming, playing horseshoes, drinking coffee, or hiking. Kids can guess what you're pantomiming.
- Then let everyone who'd like to have a turn to act out things they like doing with friends while others guess.

TALK ABOUT JESUS

ASK: Think about our game when you were guessing. Call out things you did that helped you figure out what people were acting out. Take responses from several kids.

SAY: To understand what people were doing, we watched closely, listened to what others said, and paid attention to the actors.

ASK: How does paying attention to someone or listening show that you're a good friend?

ASK: Now think about our friendship with Jesus. How can we pay attention to Jesus? spend time with him? listen to him? Take responses from kids for each part of the question and challenge them to think of ways they can invite Jesus into the things they acted out doing with friends in the game.

SAY: ➡ **Jesus wants to be our friend.** He loves and cares for us, watches over us, and listens to all we say. We can be a good friend to Jesus by doing the same things. When we spend time with Jesus, talk with him, and thank him—we're showing that we want to be his friend, too!

QUICK TIP

As you prepare for this activity, skim the Gospels to see some of the ways Jesus showed friendship to his disciples. Look at the things he and his friends did, talked about, and shared.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha” Activity Page (1 per child)
- “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha” Coloring Page (1 per younger child)
- timer
- pencils
- crayons

QUICK TIP

For younger kids, provide the Coloring Page and crayons as an alternative.

SAY: When Jesus went to visit Mary and Martha, Mary chatted with him while Martha did chores. Let’s do two puzzles today to show the two ways they acted.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Give kids one minute to try to complete the jumble to do “chores” like tidying up. Then allow free time for kids to complete the drawing to show spending time with Jesus.

ASK: Which puzzle did you like better? Why?

ASK: How did you feel when you were rushing to try to get the jumble done?

ASK: What does that show you about Martha’s feelings?

ASK: Do you think you’re more like Mary or Martha? Explain.

SAY: Jesus wasn’t saying it’s a bad thing to do chores! But ➡ Jesus wants to be our friend. Let’s not get so busy that we ignore Jesus. We can spend time with Jesus like Mary did.

ANSWER KEY: SWEEP, COOK, BAKE, SCRUB, DISHES, LAUNDRY



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SAY: We’ve talked a bit today about spending time with Jesus and what that can look like. One way is to talk with him, like Mary did. We can do that through prayer.

When we pray, we’re having a conversation with our friend Jesus. Sometimes people spend most of their time talking to Jesus. But just like when you have a conversation with a friend, you can talk *and* listen.

Sometimes it can seem harder to hear Jesus than to hear our other friends. So let’s make sure we’re not distracted. Get into a position that feels comfortable to you. You shouldn’t be touching anyone else. Pause.

Now close your eyes. If you think you’ll want to open them, turn and face away from people. That way nothing will distract you as you listen to Jesus. Pause.

Great! Now we’ll ask Jesus two questions. After I say one question, I’ll pause. Silently ask Jesus that question and then listen for his answer.

SAY: Jesus, what do you like about me? Allow a minute or two for kids to listen.

SAY: Jesus, how can I help our friendship grow? Allow a minute or two for kids to listen.

ASK: If you heard from Jesus, tell about that.

SAY: It’s OK if you didn’t hear from Jesus. Keep asking and listening to him. The more we practice listening to Jesus, the more we’ll hear him speak. And this is so important to remember: ➡ Jesus wants to be our friend.

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Activity Page

Be like Martha! Clean up the mess of jumbled words.

PEWES _ _ _ _ _

BRUSC _ _ _ _ _

KOCO _ _ _ _ _

HIDESS _ _ _ _ _

KEAB _ _ _ _ _

DRAUNYL _ _ _ _ _

Be like Mary! Enjoy being with Jesus by finishing this picture of him.



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Coloring Page



Luke 10:38-42: Jesus went to visit his friends Mary and Martha. While he was there, Martha spent her time working hard, preparing a big meal for Jesus. Mary spent time sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him. Martha was mad that she got stuck with all the work, but Jesus said Mary had chosen the best thing—spending time with him. *Jesus wants to be our friend.*