

Mary and Martha (Core Leaders Notes: 4-11 Year Olds)

Basis: Jesus Visits Martha and Mary from Luke 10:38-42

Key Questions: "What distracts us from spending time with Jesus? What was Martha putting in front of her time with Him? How can we avoid making the same mistake?"

Equipment Needed:

From Your Settings' Stock:

Multimedia Display (DVD)
Construction Toys
Dressing Up Box
Children's Bible Selection
Felt Tip Pens
Colouring & Writing Pencils
Plastic Bowls/Cups
Access to Water

Supplied in the Box:

Colourful matchsticks
Paper Plates
Pancakes
Icing Tubes
Strawberry Laces
Egg Timers
Sequins
Acrylic Paint Pens
Story Specific Puzzle Sheets
Stickers

Note: Sections 1-3 which are designed to precede the Teaching section are reproduced on the Welcome Card inside your BalloonBox

4. Teaching: Mary and Martha

Introduction Activity – Matchstick Mayhem

Split the group into two teams and spill out the bags of matchsticks into two piles on the floor.

Challenge the teams in a race to collect up as many of the matchsticks as possible as they tidy up the mess.

In each pile there will be one golden matchstick. Once one team has won and the group have celebrated the victory discuss with them whether or not they noticed the golden matchstick in the pile...

Discuss with the children that today, we will be looking at the time that Jesus visited Mary and Martha. Martha got distracted by all the jobs that needed to be done and missed the importance of just spending time with Jesus.

Story Content – Jesus Visits Mary and Martha

Watch Miracle Maker 13:20-15:00

Wondering Questions

Use these wondering questions in small groups or as one whole group to briefly reflect on the story to prepare the children for the response activities.

"I wonder..."

- ...what was the most important part of what we just watched?
- ...who would you have been if you had been there all those years ago? Would you have been like Martha who was all busy getting the meal ready? Or more like Mary all focused and listening to what Jesus was saying?
- ...how would you have felt if Jesus came for dinner at your house? *Use this question as a launchpad to the next one to focus in on Mary's response to Jesus and what she made a priority of.*
- ...why do you think Mary just sat and listened to Jesus rather than helping her sister? Do you think she was just being lazy or was there another reason? *Discuss how Mary clearly understood the immeasurable importance of what Jesus was teaching, she recognised that spending time with Jesus was much more important than spending time on Jesus.*
- ...if Jesus came to their home for dinner, how would they welcome Him? *Would they make a big fuss of Him or leave Him standing on the doorstep? Would they throw a big party or just eat chips in front of the TV?*
- ...did you know that Jesus does actually come to your home every single day? That He once said 'I stand at the door and knock, and if I am invited in I will come in eat'? *Explain to the group this is one of the reasons that Mary wants to worship Jesus – because He is not a God who is far away, but is a God who cries with us, who eats with us, who parties with us. Mary responded to Jesus coming into her home by focusing on spending time with Him, listening and learning what He taught– how could we respond to Him visiting us each day with our own time, or effort or energy...? Try and think of really practical suggestions – how can we make time to spend with Jesus each day? How can we make sure we are focusing on Jesus and not just the things that need to get done, things we want to just do for fun, etc.*
- ...did you know that for thousands of years Christians have been setting aside time to just be with God praying and thinking about the things Jesus teaches? *Explore together that sometimes it is easy to spend time with God and that's fantastic, but sometimes we can get distracted by other things really easily; like Martha preparing the big dinner. What do they spend time on that's particularly precious to them? How could they include God more in that time...?*

5. Response Activities

These activities need to be pre-set around the space prior to the session beginning. Equipment from your setting is shown in regular type, equipment from the BalloonBox is listed in **bold**.

Create 1: Tasty Clocks

Mary focused on spending her time listening and learning from what Jesus was saying; children can decorate a pancake to look like a clock, thinking about how we wisely spend our time.

Kit: **Miniature Pancakes, Strawberry Laces, Icing Tubes, Paper Plates, Felt Tip Pens**

Create 2: Turning Time

Children are challenged to decorate their own personal 'hourglass' as they think about setting aside time to be with God each day.

Kit: **Egg Timers, Sequins, Acrylic Paint Pens, Stickers, PVA Glue and Spreaders**

Puzzle: Keeping the Main Thing

An opportunity to reflect on the story of Jesus visiting Mary and Martha through the puzzles and activities provided

Kit: **Story Specific Puzzle Sheets**, Felt Tip Pens, Colouring Pencils

Explore: Stop and Listen

An opportunity for children to deepen their knowledge through exploring your selection of children's Bibles to find other occasions where people stopped what they were doing to focus on Jesus.

Kit: Selection of children's Bibles

Play: Robot Server

A chance for the children to practically respond to the teaching by creating a 'prep robot' that could have done all of Martha's work so that she could focus on Jesus

Kit: Construction Toys

Perform: Listen and learn

A chance for children to immerse themselves in the story by creating a scene where someone listens and learns from what Jesus is saying using the dressing up clothes you have available

Kit: Dressing Up Box

6. Plenary

Around ten minutes before the end of the session, call tidy up time and gather the children into circle(s) each with a leader. Give them an opportunity to share what they have been doing during the free choosing time ensuring you make space to celebrate every child's experience and linking back what they have chosen to do to the story (if they do not make the link themselves).

Prayer Activity: Timer Prayers

During this part of the session it may be helpful to play some quite worship music as you pray.

Gather the group and using the timers created earlier, encourage the children to find a space in the room. As the worship music is playing, pray for the group as they watch their egg timer and spend time being quiet with God and praying for things that are going on for them in the week ahead.

After a few moments of quiet, close in prayer on behalf of the group asking God to help us to make space for us to spend time with Him this week, just like Mary did, no matter what things distract us, because we know that there is no better way to spend our time than with Him. Reflect together on how helpful or otherwise the children found having the hourglasses to help them set the time aside.