



## LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

### 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

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**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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** disposable cups with various items inside

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 Listen!

**Set-up:** Before kids arrive, fill 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.



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **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.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible important? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

**Tell the Bible Story**

The Beginner's Bible, pages 385-390

Mary and Martha

### Word of Wonder

#### WORD OF WONDER

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

— Matthew 11:28

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does God give us rest? How you feel when you pray and talk to God?**
- **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?**



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Game: Sweeping Relays

**SUPPLIES:** small ball-pit balls (several in various colors), small toy dust pan and broom

Ahead of time, scatter several small ball-pit balls of various colors on the floor.

**Let's use our listening ears to play a game. You're each going to have a turn to use your listening ears. I'm going to call out a color of ball. As soon as you see a ball of that color, you can use the broom to scoop it up and then carry it across the room to the other wall.**

Give each kid a turn with the dust pan and broom. Call out a colored ball and have her scoop up the ball then carry it across the room to the other side. Encourage other kids to cheer her on as she "sweeps."

**In our story today, Martha was busy getting things ready in her home. One of the things people sometimes do when having guests over to their home for a meal is sweep. In our game, we were sweeping, but we were also listening. We can remember that Jesus invites us to listen to Him!**

Play as time allows.



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Responding in Worship: Prayer Stations

**SUPPLIES:** tape (prep only), tambourine

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Prayer Station Signs

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!**

