



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

Volunteer Contributor to

Wonder Ink

LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

MARY AND MARTHA

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: play brooms, dustpans, dusters, rags, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink 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: 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.



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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

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

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?



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LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Listening Ears

SUPPLIES: kid-safe scissors, tape, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink 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. Set out kid-safe scissors for the kids (or precut the ears and bands ahead of time). Set out some tape and coloring utensils.

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!

