

MARY AND MARTHA

Luke 10:38-42

BIBLE VERSE:

"Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said. "Don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children." Matthew 19:14

Unit 1

Gospels— People Jesus Met

Session 2

June 13

Overview of the Scripture/Bible Story

There are two sisters at the heart of today's Bible story. Jesus had become friends with Martha and she opened her home to him. Martha was hardworking and made sure everything was just right at meal time. Mary, on the other hand, was happy to just sit and listen at Jesus' feet. Before long, Martha became upset with her sister. Why should she be working hard when Mary was just sitting "doing nothing."

It's important to understand the cultural circumstances in this story. While it was common for teachers to travel from place to place and accept hospitality from others, it was not common for women to sit and learn from teachers. Women and girls were expected to attend to the guests, providing food and making sure everyone was comfortable. By sitting and listening along with men, Mary was doing something very unusual. Martha had every reason to believe Jesus would side with her. "Jesus, make my sister get up and help!" But Jesus did not side with Martha. Instead, Jesus praised Mary for wanting to sit and listen to his teaching! With this context in mind, it is truly amazing to see how radical Jesus' ministry was. Jesus elevated people on the margins of society.

This month, the kids in your class are learning stories about people who were lifted up by Jesus. As the youngest members of your church, show your class that they are special and valued by God. Help them understand that they can listen and learn just like Mary.

Biblical Concepts to Teach

- God loves people.
- Jesus cared for all people.
- Jesus taught people about God.



Objectives to Learn

- Understand that Jesus valued people who were not valued by others.
- Understand that Jesus reached out with God's love to all people.
- Understand that I can share God's love with others.

Application for Kids Today

- God loves me.
- God knows me.
- I can share God's love with others.

How does this story fit in the unit theme?

- The Unit 1 theme is People Jesus Met.
- The Gospels tell stories of Jesus meeting people on the margins of society.
- The stories in Unit 1 help summarize the ministry of Jesus.

ACTIVITIES

Title	Type of Activity	Age Level	Lesson Supplies
OPEN			
GREETING/GATHER ROUND Prayer Bible Story Mary and Martha	Music/Movement Spiritual Exercise Spiritual Exercise Art	Preschool	wooden spoon, small pillow
Who's Who?	Puzzle	Younger Elementary	
Which Mary?	Puzzle	Older Elementary	
Martha's Trail Mix	Snack	All	trail mix ingredients and supplies
Ways of Greeting	Activity	All	world map or globe
Sit or Stand	Game	All	CD, CD player, or other music device
NOURISH			
Read the Bible Story	Spiritual Exercise	Elementary	
Bible Research	Bible Skill	Elementary	pencils, index cards, resealable plastic storage bags
Interactive Bible Story	Responsive Reading	Elementary	
Examine the Verse	Bible Skill	Elementary	
EXPRESS			
My Work, My Rest	Application	All	pencils, crayons
One Room Kids Comic	Character Sketch	All	
PRAISE & WORSHIP Blessing Prayer	Spiritual Exercise	All	
Family Devotion	Family	All	

OPEN

GREETING

- Play the theme song, "This Is the Place" (CD-ROM), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark the attendance chart.

GATHER ROUND

Note: The emphasis of this part of the lesson is on preschoolers. Allow the elementary kids to participate by helping.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

Say: Welcome to One Room Sunday School! This month we will be hearing stories about people Jesus met. Our story today is about two women named Mary and Martha. Let's listen to what happened.

Read today's story from the *Bible Basics Storybook*: "Mary and Martha" (pp. 214–5).

- You can allow an elementary kid to read the story to the preschoolers.
- Invite the kids to share their favorite part of the story.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us times to sit and listen. Amen.

Coloring Page: "Mary and Martha" (Reproducible 2A)

- Give each preschooler a copy of Reproducible 2A.
- Invite the preschoolers to color the picture.

Say: Martha was very busy preparing the meal. Mary wanted to sit and listen to Jesus. Jesus said that Mary had chosen well. Mary had chosen to be close to Jesus and to learn.

TRANSITION

- This month, help the kids transition by providing special objects related to each story for June.
- Today, place a wooden spoon and a small pillow in the center of the table.
- Discuss what the objects might be used for.



SUPPLIES:

- offering basket
- CD-ROM/
CD player

Display the "Attendance Chart" (Resource Pak—p. 1).

- *Bible Basics Storybook*

Make copies of "Mary and Martha" (Reproducible 2A)

- crayons

- a wooden spoon
- a small pillow

Make copies of "Who's Who?" (Reproducible 2B) and "Which Mary?" (Reproducible 2C).

- pencils
- Bibles

- chocolate chips
- M&M's
- pretzel sticks
- cereal
- goldfish crackers
- nuts (check for allergies)
- raisins
- other dried fruit
- disposable bowls
- resealable plastic bags
- disposable spoons

WHO'S WHO? – YOUNGER ELEMENTARY

- Hand out copies of Reproducible 2B to the kids.
- Make pencils available.

Say: Decode the names on the page to learn who's who in today's Bible story. Each person's name has been written backwards. Rewrite the names correctly.

- Give the kids some time to decode the names.

Ask: What are the names of the people in today's Bible story?

WHICH MARY? – OLDER ELEMENTARY

- Put the kids into pairs for this activity.
- Hand out one copy of Reproducible 2C to each kid.
- Provide Bibles for pairs of students to share.

Say: Today's Bible story features a person named Mary. There are at least three Marys in the Bible. Match the Marys on the left side of the page with words you think each Mary might have said.

- Have the pairs work together using Bibles and their prior knowledge.
- After the pairs have thought about the activity, provide these clues: Jesus' mother was once concerned that a wedding was running out of something people drink; Mary Magdalene was one of the first people to see Jesus after he rose from the dead; Mary of Bethany (the Mary in today's story) had a brother.

MARTHA'S TRAIL MIX

Say: In today's Bible story, Martha prepared a meal for her house guests. Let's prepare our own snack to enjoy.

- Set out the ingredients for the trail mix by placing each item in a disposable bowl.
- Put a spoon in each bowl.
- Hand a resealable plastic bag to each kid.
- Allow the kids to get a spoonful of each ingredient and place it in their resealable plastic bag.

Say: Before you enjoy your trail mix, let's pray and thank God for our food.

- Invite the kids to find a spot on the floor or in a chair to sit down and enjoy their snack.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for our food and for helping us to sit and learn today. Amen.

WAYS OF GREETING

- This month, we are learning about people Jesus met. When people meet each other, there are ways of saying hello and showing respect. Each week, your class will learn a new greeting custom and a new way to say hello.

Ask: When people meet each other, what do they do? What do people say?

- Prompt the kids in your class to think about what they observe when people meet each other. For example, many people shake hands when they meet. People often say "hello."

Say: Let's learn how people greet each other in another country.

- Point to Africa on the map of the world or globe. Look for the countries of Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Ask: How do you think people greet each other in Zimbabwe and Mozambique?

- Allow the kids to make a guess about the greeting custom.

Say: In Zimbabwe and Mozambique, it is common for people to clap their hands together when they greet one another!

- Invite the kids to practice by clapping their hands in greeting to one another.

Say: In Zimbabwe, you say hello by saying "mhoru." (*MURR -ah*)

- Invite the kids to practice saying "mhoru" to one another.

SIT OR STAND

Say: In today's Bible story, Martha was standing and working. Mary was sitting and listening. Let's play a game where we sit or stand.

- Set out the CD player or other music player.
- Play the music. Instruct the kids to walk around the room. If they wish, have them pretend to be busily working as if preparing a meal.
- Pause the music. Instruct the kids to stop wherever they are and sit down. Have them try to be very still and listen for the music to start playing again.
- Continue playing multiple rounds of the game.

Ask: Which part of the game did you like the best? Did you like walking and working or sitting and listening?

- Allow the kids to answer the questions.

Say: Martha was upset that Mary wasn't helping to prepare the meal. She wanted Mary get up off the floor and help!

- Encourage the kids to listen for what happens in the story.

- a world map or globe

- a CD of praise music
- CD player or another way to play the music for your class

NOURISH

- CEB Kids Bible

- pencils
- index cards
- resealable, plastic storage bag
- Kids Bible Dictionary

Make copies of the Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 2F–G, pp. 73–74). Copy the pages on the front and back of one piece of paper like they are in the Reproducible Kids' Book.

READ THE STORY FROM THE BIBLE

Ask: Today's Bible story is found in the Book of Luke.

- Ask the kids to work together to find Luke 10:38-42. Encourage them to bring their own Bibles and use them in class.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the Scripture.

Say: In those days, it would have been expected for women to do all the cooking and other housework. It would have been unusual for a woman to sit down and listen to Jesus.

Ask: Why was Martha so upset with Mary? (*Mary wasn't helping with the preparation of the meal.*) What did Jesus say? (*Jesus told Martha that what her sister was doing was a good thing.*)

Say: God loves all people. Jesus showed love and care to everyone. Jesus made it clear that all people are equal.

BIBLE RESEARCH

- Look up Martha, Mary of Bethany, and Lazarus in the *Kids Bible Dictionary*.
- Invite the kids to write down a sentence (or draw a picture) of something they learn from the entry on an index card.
- Save the cards in a large plastic bag. At the end of this quarter, look back at the cards to remember things we've learned in previous weeks.

Say: We will save our cards and look back on what we've learned at a later time.

INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

- Before class, photocopy the Take-Home Pages from Reproducibles 2F–G, pp. 73–74, front and back.
- Choose a lead reader for today's responsive reading.

Say: Look at the Bible story from today's Take-Home Pages. *Mary and Martha* is written as a responsive reading. _____ will read first, and then we will all read the words in bold.

- Ask an older student to lead the group in the responses. Read through the story.
- If time allows, read the story a second time.

EXAMINE THE BIBLE VERSE

Say: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Matthew 19:14. Find it in your Bibles.

Ask: Is the Book of Matthew in the Old or New Testament? (*New*)
Where is Matthew located in the New Testament? (*first book*)
In what chapter of Matthew is our verse located? (*chapter 19*)
What is the verse number? (*14*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse poster. Read it together.
- Give each child a copy of the sign language and go over the signs together.
- Have the kids sign and say the Bible verse with you.

Ask: What is the reference for our verse? (*Matthew 19:14*)

EXPRESS

MY WORK, MY REST

- Before class, make copies of Reproducibles 2D and 2E. You will need to make copies of Reproducible 2D for your elementary kids and copies of Reproducible 2E for your preschoolers.

Say: In our story today, Martha is working hard. Mary is not working. Mary is taking time to listen and to learn. There are times to do work and there are times to take a break.

- Hand out copies of the Reproducible pages to the kids.
- Address the elementary kids as you refer to Reproducible 2D.

Say: Make two lists below. On the left side, list work you do each week (like homework or chores). On the right side of the page, list ways you like to relax or have fun.

- Address the preschoolers as you refer to Reproducible 2E.

Say: At the top of the page, write or draw about work (chores) you do. At the bottom of the page, write or draw ways that you like to rest and have fun.

- Help the preschoolers think about work or chores they might do. You might even help them think about things like brushing teeth, washing hands, getting themselves dressed, and so forth.

Ask: Do you think it's important for people to do their work?

- Allow the kids to think about the question and discuss.

Ask: Do you think it's important for people to have time to relax?

Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse poster (Resource Pak—pp. 10 & 15).

Make copies of the Unit 1 ASL signs (Leader Guide—p. 120).

Make copies of "My Work, My Rest" (Reproducibles 2D and 2E)

- pencils
- crayons

Use the copies of the Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 2F–G, pp. 73–74) that you made earlier.

- a CD of praise music
- CD player or another way to play the music for your class

ONE ROOM KIDS COMIC

Say: Each week, we read a comic with the One Room Kids. Let's see what's happening this week.

- Have the children look at the One Room Kids Comic from the Take-Home Pages for today.
- Invite volunteers to read the comic one panel at a time.

Ask: What did you notice in this week's One Room Kids Comic?

- Remind the kids about J. D.'s behavior in last week's comic.

Ask: How did the kids in Sunday school help J. D. play his puppy game in a way that was more fun for everyone?

PRAISE & WORSHIP

- Gather the kids in a circle.

Say: Every week we gather for praise and worship at the end of Sunday school.

- Play praise music and encourage the kids to dance along.

Blessing: Before you leave today, you will receive a blessing. Blessings show how special you are to God.

- Go around the circle and say the blessing to each child.

Say: (Child's name), God loves you! You are important. You are valued.

Say: Let's take time to talk to God and thank God for loving us.

Ask: Do you have any joys or concerns you would like to share before we pray?

Pray: God, thank you for each person in our class. Amen.

FAMILY DEVOTION

Say: Let's take a look at your Take-Home Pages for today. We read the Bible story together. We also read today's One Room Kids Comic. Ask your family to participate in this week's devotion.

- Show the kids where to find the Family Devotion on the Take-Home Pages.

Say: This month, invite your family to enjoy some **Fun Summer Movie Nights!** All this month, we will suggest a Pixar movie that goes along with this week's Bible story. This week, watch the movie *Brave* with your family.



2A

Mary and Martha – Coloring Page (Preschool)

Color the picture step by step. 1. Color Jesus. 2. Color the woman making food (Martha). 3. Color the woman sitting and listening to Jesus (Mary).



2B

Who's Who? – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

Decode the names below to learn who's who in today's Bible story. Each person's name has been written backwards. Rewrite the names correctly.



SURAZAL



AHTRAM



YRAM



SUSEJ

20

Which Mary? – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

Today's Bible story features a person named Mary. Do you know a Mary from the New Testament? You might think of Jesus' mother whose name was Mary. But today's story is not about Jesus' mother. There are at least three Marys in the Bible. Match the Marys on the left side of the page with words you think each Mary might have said.

Mary Magdalene

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died.”

Mary, the mother of Jesus

“They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him.”

Mary of Bethany

“They don't have any wine.”

No clue? There are some hints in your teacher's Leader Guide.

2D

My Work, My Rest – Activity (Elementary)

In our story today, Martha is working hard. Mary is not working. Mary is taking time to listen and to learn. There are times to do work and there are times to take a break. Make two lists below. On the left side, list work you do each week (like homework or chores). On the right side of the page, list ways you like to relax or have fun.

My Work

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

My Rest

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

My Work, My Rest – Activity (Preschool)

At the top of the page, write or draw about work (chores) you do. At the bottom of the page, write or draw ways that you like to rest and have fun.

My Work

My Rest