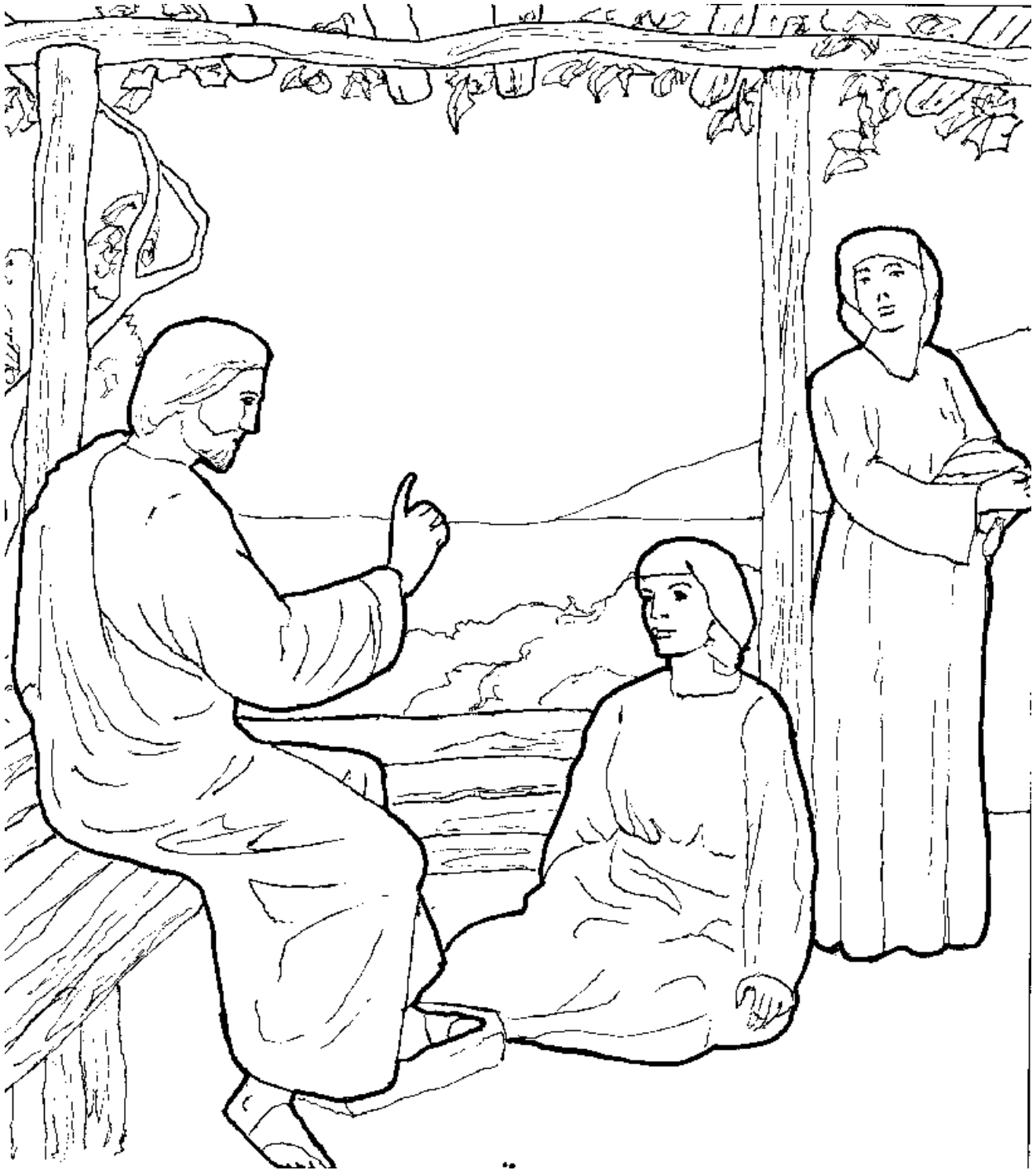


Mary & Martha

Luke 10



Hearing God's Word was the most important thing for Mary.



The Story

Not far from Jerusalem, there was a little village called Bethany. Jesus had special friends who lived there. They were sisters, named Mary and Martha. Their brother, Lazarus, also lived with them.

One day when Jesus came to Bethany, Martha invited Him to come to their house for a meal.

Martha was very busy preparing the meal for Jesus. She wanted to show her love for Him by cooking a good meal.

While Martha was working,
Mary sat at Jesus' feet and
listened to every word He said.
He was teaching her the Word of
God.

Martha thought that Mary should be helping her with the meal. There was a lot of work to be done. Martha thought that cooking a good meal was more important than just sitting and listening to Jesus.

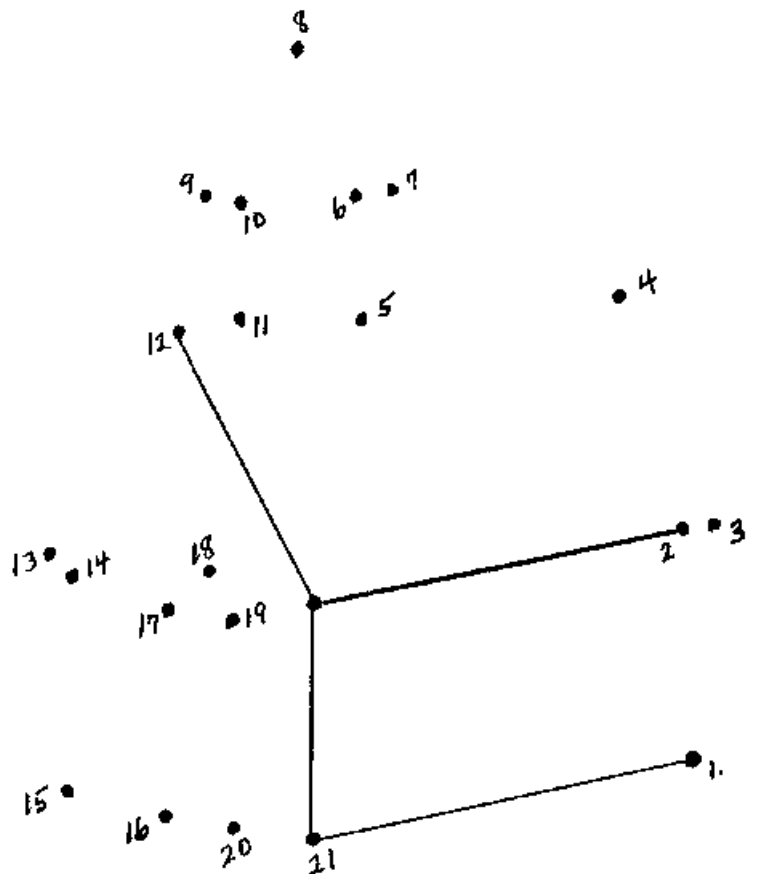
Finally, Martha came to Jesus and said, “Don’t You care that my sister is just sitting there while I’m doing all the work by myself? Please tell her to come and help me.”

But Je sus said, “Martha, Martha, you are worried about

many things, but Mary is doing the most important thing. She is listening to the Word of God, and she will always remember what she has learned. No one can ever take that away from her.”

Hearing the Word of God is more important than anything else that we do in this life. We need to try to be more like Mary, and always hear and learn God's Word whenever we can.

Activity One - Connect the dots to see one of the places where we can sit at Jesus' feet and hear His Word. Color the picture.



Activity Two - Listen to the following sentences. If the sentence is true, color the happy face. If it is not true, color the sad face.



1. Mary and Martha were sisters.



2. Martha wanted to serve Jesus by preparing a meal.



3. Mary should have helped Martha with the meal.



4. It was all right for Martha to get angry at Mary.



5. Mary chose the best thing to do.



6. We should be more like Mary.



7. It's all right to stay home from church and cook a meal for the pastor.



8. God's Word is the most important thing in our life.

Activity Three - There are many places where we can hear and learn the Word of God. Find these and circle them.



Hearing God's Word is the most important thing for us.

Passages

Luke 11:28 - Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Hymn - TLH # 285 st. 1

How precious is the Book Divine,
By inspiration giv'n!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine
To guide our souls to heav'n.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,
Help us to be more like Mary and always be happy to hear and learn
Your Word whenever we have a chance. We know that You will bless us
through the hearing of Your Word. We need to put You first in our lives,
because You are the way to eternal life. Amen

Mary & Martha

Luke 10:38-42



Hearing God's Word was the most important thing for Mary.



The Story

Not far from Jerusalem there was a little village called Bethany. Jesus had special friends who lived there. They were sisters named Mary and Martha. Their brother Lazarus also lived with them.

One day when Jesus came to Bethany, Martha invited Him to come to their house for a meal.

Martha was very busy preparing a meal for Jesus. She wanted to show her love for Jesus by cooking a good meal for Him.

While Martha was working, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to every word He said. He was teaching her the Word of God.

Martha thought that Mary should be helping her with the meal. There was a lot of work to be done. She thought that cooking a good

meal was more important than just sitting and listening to Jesus. Finally Martha came to Jesus and said, "Don't You care that my sister is just sitting there while I'm doing all the work by myself? Please tell her to come and help me."

Then Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried about many things, but Mary is doing the most important thing. She is listening to the Word of God, and she will always remember what she has learned. No one can ever take that away from her."

Hearing the Word of God is more important than anything else that we do in this life. We need to try to be more like Mary and always hear and learn God's Word whenever we can.

Activity One - Read the following sentences. If the sentence is true, write 'Yes' on the line. If the sentence is not true, write 'No' on the line.

1. _____ Mary and Martha were sisters.
2. _____ Martha wanted to serve Jesus by preparing a meal.
3. _____ Mary should have helped Martha with the meal.
4. _____ It was all right for Martha to get angry at Mary.
5. _____ Mary chose the best thing to do.
6. _____ We should be more like Mary.

7. _____ It's all right to stay home from church and cook a meal for the pastor.

8. _____ God's Word is the most important thing in our life.

9. _____ We don't have many chances to hear God's Word.

Activity Two - The following are sets of activities. Put a 1 by the more important activity and a 2 by the less important.

_____ eating

_____ watching TV

_____ cleaning your room

_____ devotion

_____ going to VBS

_____ going to church

_____ praying

_____ reading the Bible

_____ talking to friends about clothes

_____ playing

_____ reading a book

_____ talking to friends about Jesus

Activity Three - There are many places where we can hear and learn the Word of God. Find these and circle them.



Hearing God's Word is the most important thing for us.

Passages

Luke 11:28 - Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Hymn - TLH # 285 v. 1, 4

Discuss the words: *Book Divine, inspiration, doctrines, tedious night of life, eternal day*

How precious is the Book Divine,
By inspiration given!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine
To guide our souls to heav'n.

This lamp through all our tedious night
Of life shall guide our way
Till we behold the clearer light
Of an eternal day.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

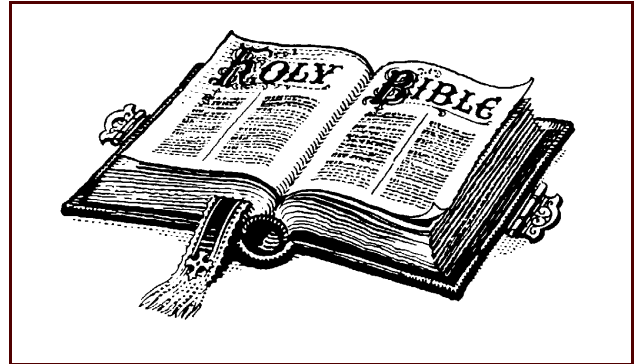
Help us to be more like Mary and always be happy to hear and learn Your Word whenever we have a chance. We know that You will bless us through the hearing of Your Word. We need to put You first in our lives, because You are the way to eternal life. Amen

Mary & Martha

Luke 10:38-42

If Jesus came to visit you, what would you do? Would you clean the house, cook a fancy meal, or just sit and talk with Him?

In our story today you will meet two sisters who invited Jesus to their home. They both loved Him and wanted to serve Him. Let's find out which one chose the best way to serve her Lord.



Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, as we study Your Word today, help us to be like Mary, eager to hear every word and happy to have this opportunity to learn more about You. We pray that You would open our hearts as Your Word is taught so that our faith will grow and be strengthened. Bless our study today. In Your name we pray. Amen

The Story

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

{39} And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. {40} But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

{41} And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are

worried and troubled about many things. {42} "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Outer Aim - Hearing God's Word was the most important thing for Mary.



What the Story Tells Us - Discuss the following questions.

1. Was it wrong for Martha to spend time preparing a meal for her Lord? Why or why not?
2. Was it wrong for Martha to become angry at Mary for not helping her? Why or why not?
3. When do we sit at Jesus' feet and have a chance to hear and learn His Word?
4. What are some of the things that might keep us from gladly hearing Jesus' word?
5. Why is the study of God's Word more important than anything else?

What God's Word Tells Us - Cross out the wrong word in each sentence, and write the correct word on the line.

1. Jesus went to visit Mary and Martha who lived in Bethle hem.

2. When Jesus started teaching the Word of God, Mary sat and slept.

3. Martha did not listen to Jesus' words because she was busy eating a meal.

4. Martha thought that Mary should be listening. _____
5. Jesus said, "Martha, there is only one thing that is very important, and that is my dinner." _____

6. Jesus said, "Mary has chosen the bad part which shall never be taken away from her." _____
7. It is hard for us to watch TV instead of reading and studying God's Word.

8. God wants us to sleep late or to go fishing on Sunday mornings rather than going to church. _____
9. God says that hearing His Word is less important than other things.

10. Through the Word of God the Holy Spirit works doubt in our hearts. _____

Your Turn - Use your Bibles to look up the following Bible verses and match them to the phrase that fits them best. Put the correct letter in the blank.

A. 1 Peter 2:2 B. 2 Timothy 3:15 - 16 C. Romans 10:17 D. Luke 11:28

_____ You will be happy if you hear the Word of God and also hold on to it.

_____ The Word of God creates faith in the hearts of hearers.

_____ The Bible is the word of God, not just the words of men.

_____ We should be hungry for the Word of God.

Inner Aim - Hearing God's Word is the most important thing for His people.

Passages

Luke 11:28 - Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!

2 Timothy 3:15 - From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hymn - TLH # 285

Discuss the words: *Book Divine, inspiration, doctrines, trod, grace, tedious night of life, eternal day*

How precious is the Book Divine,
By inspiration given!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine
To guide our souls to heav'n.

It shows to man his wand'ring ways
And where his feet have trod,
And brings to view the matchless grace
Of a forgiving God.

Its light, descending from above
Our gloomy world to cheer,
Displays a Savior's boundless love
And brings His glories near.

This lamp through all our tedious night
Of life shall guide our way
Till we behold the clearer light
Of an eternal day.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make us eager to serve You as Mary and Martha did. Forgive us for the times we have neglected to hear and learn Your Word as we should. Help us realize how important Your Word is, so that we will choose it above other things as Mary did. Send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith through the hearing of Your Word so that we will always put You first in our lives. Make us faithful hearers of Your Word. Amen.

Mary & Martha

Luke 10:38-42

If Jesus came to visit you, what would you do?
Would you clean the house, cook a fancy meal,
or just sit and talk with Him?

In our story today you will meet two sisters who
invited Jesus to their home. They both loved Him
and wanted to serve Him. Let's find out which
one chose the best way to serve her Lord.



Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, as we study Your Word today, help us to be like Mary, eager to hear every word and happy to have this opportunity to learn more about You. We pray that You would open our hearts as Your Word is taught so that our faith will grow and be strengthened. Bless our study today. In Your name we pray. Amen

The Story

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that He entered a certain village; and a
certain woman named Martha
welcomed Him into her house.

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to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried
and troubled about many things. {42}
"But one thing is needed, and Mary has
chosen that good part, which will not
be taken away from her."

**Outer Aim - Hearing God's Word
was the most important thing for
Mary.**



What the Story Tells Us - Discuss the following questions.

1. Was it wrong for Martha to spend time preparing a meal for her Lord? Why or why not?
2. Was it wrong for Martha to become angry at Mary for not helping her? Why or why not?
3. Do you think that Martha was surprised that Jesus didn't make Mary help her?
4. When do we sit at Jesus' feet and have a chance to hear and learn His Word?
5. What are some of the things that might keep us from gladly hearing Jesus' word?
6. Why is the study of God's Word more important than anything else?

What God's Word Tells Us - Cross out the wrong word in each sentence, and write the correct word on the line.

1. Jesus went to visit Mary and Martha who lived in Bethle hem. _____
2. When Jesus started teaching the Word of God, Mary sat and slept. _____
3. Martha didn't listen to Jesus because she was busy eating a meal. _____
4. Martha thought that Mary should be listening. _____
5. Jesus said, "Martha, there is only one thing that is very important, and that is my dinner." _____
6. Jesus said, "Mary has chosen the bad part which shall never be taken away from her." _____
7. It is hard for us to watch TV instead of reading and studying God's Word. _____
8. God wants us to sleep late or to go fishing on Sunday mornings rather than going to church. _____
9. God says that hearing His Word is less important than other things. _____
10. Through the Word of God the Holy Spirit works doubt in our hearts. _____

Your Turn - Use your Bibles to look up the following Bible verses and match them to the phrase that fits them best. Put the correct letter in the blank.

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_____ You will be happy if you hear the Word of God and also hold on to it.

_____ The Word of God creates faith in the hearts of hearers.

_____ The Bible is the word of God, not just the words of men.

_____ We should be hungry for the Word of God.

Some Things to Think About - We need to learn from Mary and make the right choices in our lives. Talk about what we should choose in each of these situations in order to be more like Mary.

1. My baseball team has a game tonight, but we also have a Lenten service at church. What should I do?
2. My favorite TV show is on tonight, but I still haven't learned my memory work for school (or Sunday school). What should I do?
3. My friend asked me to spend the night at his house on Saturday, but his/her family doesn't attend church. What should I do?
4. I like to sit with my friends in church, but sometimes we talk or write notes instead of listening to the sermon. What should I do?
5. I have a chance to go camping with my friend this summer, but it is the same week that VBS is scheduled. What should I do?

Inner Aim - Hearing God's Word is the most important thing for His people.

Passages

Luke 11:28 - Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!

2 Timothy 3:15 - From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hymn - TLH 366

Wilt thou find this one thing needful, Turn from all created things
Unto Jesus and be heedful of the blessed joy He brings.
For where God and Man both in one are united,
With God's perfect fulness the heart is delighted;
There, there is the worthiest lot and the best,
My One and my All, and my Joy and my Rest.

How were Mary's thoughts devoted Here to mortal joy to find
As intent each word she noted, At her Savior's feet reclined!
How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling,
While hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing!
For Jesus all earthly concerns she forgot,
And all was repaid in that one happy lot.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make us eager to serve You as Mary and Martha did. Forgive us for the times we have neglected to hear and learn Your Word as we should. Help us realize how important Your Word is, so that we will choose it above other things as Mary did. Send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith through the hearing of Your Word so that we will always put You first in our lives. Make us faithful hearers of Your Word. Amen.

Mary & Martha

Luke 10

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

Not far from Jerusalem, there was a little village called Bethany. Jesus had special friends who lived there. They were sisters, named Mary and Martha. Their brother, Lazarus, also lived with them.

One day when Jesus came to Bethany, Martha invited Him to come to their house for a meal.

Martha was very busy preparing the meal for Jesus. She wanted to show her love for Him by cooking a good meal.

While Martha was working, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to every word He said. He was teaching her the Word of God.

Martha thought that Mary should be helping her with the meal. There was a lot of work to be done. Martha thought that cooking a good meal was more important than just sitting and listening to Jesus.

Finally, Martha came to Jesus and said, "Don't You care that my sister is just sitting there while I'm doing all the work by myself? Please tell her to come and help me."

But Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried about many things, but Mary is doing the most important thing. She is listening to the Word of God, and she will always remember what she has learned. No one can ever take that away from her."

Hearing the Word of God is more important than anything else that we do in this life. We need to try to be more like Mary, and always hear and learn God's Word whenever we can.

Hearing God's Word was the most important thing for Mary.

Hearing God's Word is the most important thing for us too.

Passages

Luke 11:28 - Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Hymn - TLH # 285 st. 1

How precious is the Book Divine,
By inspiration giv'n!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine
To guide our souls to heav'n.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,
Help us to be more like Mary and always be happy to hear and learn Your Word whenever we have a chance. We know that You will bless us through the hearing of Your Word. We need to put You first in our lives, because You are the way to eternal life. Amen



Classroom Activity - Listen to the following sentences. If the sentence is true, color the happy face. If it is not true, color the sad face.



1. Mary and Martha were sisters.



2. Martha wanted to serve Jesus by preparing a meal.



3. Mary should have helped Martha with the meal.



4. It was all right for Martha to get angry at Mary.



5. Mary chose the best thing to do.



6. We should be more like Mary.



7. It's all right to stay home from church and cook a meal for the pastor.

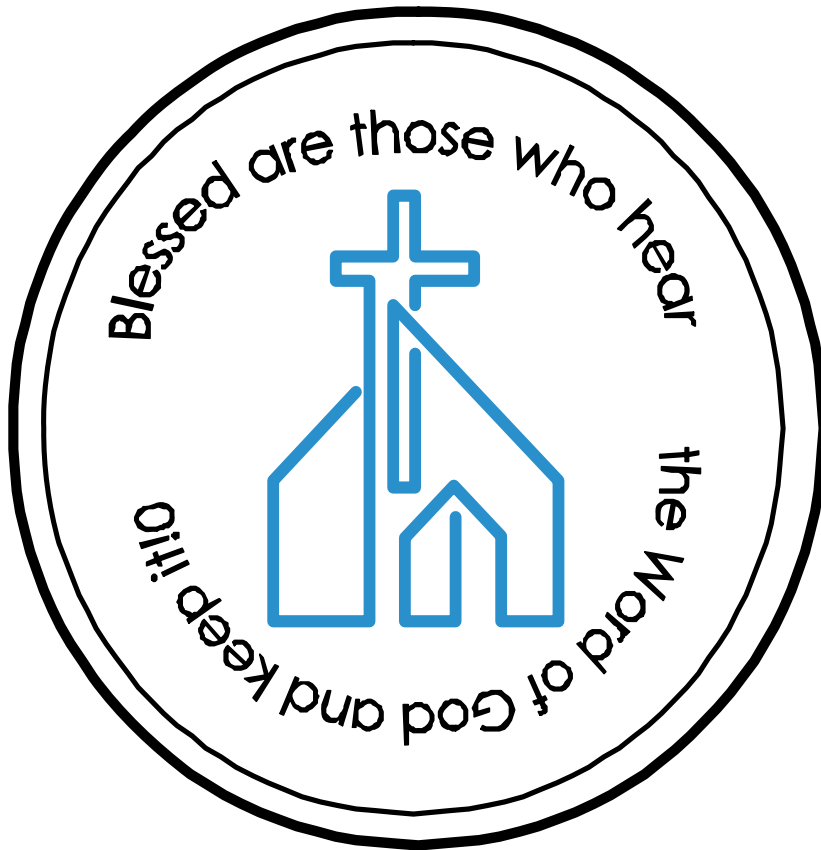


8. God's Word is the most important thing in our life.

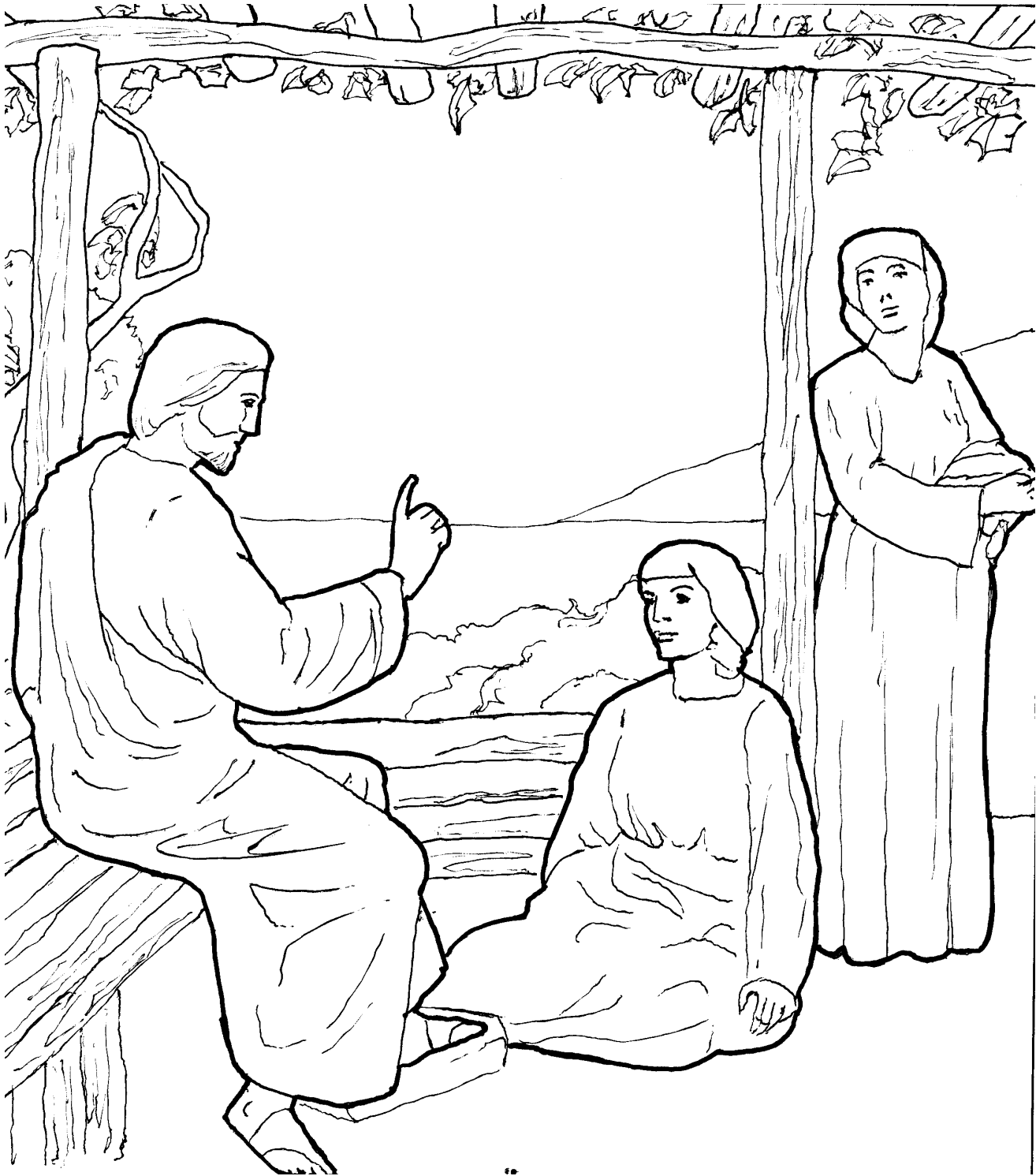
Classroom Activity - There are many places where we can hear and learn the Word of God. Find these and circle them.



Classroom Art Activity - Color and decorate this refrigerator magnet. Glue on magnetic strip (or cut apart free magnets that come with junk mail.)



Hearing God's Word is the most important thing for us.



Hearing God's Word was the most important thing for Mary.



STORY

Mary and Martha - Luke 10, 38-42

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, grant that the door to my heart may always be open to welcome You to dwell there. Open my lips to make You known in all Your graciousness to the children in my care so that You may come and dwell in their hearts. Amen.

VOCABULARY

OUTER AIM

Jesus welcomed into the home of Martha and Mary

INNER AIM

BACKGROUND *Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. 2, pp. 236 ff.*

Jesus and His disciples were on the way from Perea (land east of the Jordan river) to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the Temple. This festival had its beginnings some 160 years before the birth of Christ. It was also called the Festival of Lights. It is still observed by the Jews today. It is called Hanukkah. As they journeyed, the disciples, and perhaps Lazarus, with them went on to Jerusalem; Jesus stayed behind in Bethany at the home of Martha and Mary. This was a home that the Lord entered often and to which He enjoyed going.

Everything in life is a matter of priorities. People who can't prioritize their time will often find that although they have been running around all day, the things that need to get done are not done. People who can't prioritize their finances will constantly find themselves in debt or other financial troubles.

But the biggest problem that we all have is that we tend to prioritize the earthly over the spiritual. It is easy to think that eating and cleaning are more important than prayer and God's word, but Jesus teaches otherwise.

In our sinfulness we often think that our service to God is what is most important. Jesus teaches us that he cares far more about serving us than about us serving him.

Mark 10:45 45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Our whole lives we are taught it is more blessed to give than to receive. And that is true when we are talking about one another. But it is not true when we are talking about Jesus. Jesus has something to give us that is far more important than anything we could give him.

The teachers notes for today's lesson have a good suggestion for introducing the story. Bring three objects, a life preserver, an apple, some money. If you are on a sinking ship, which is most important? Because of our sin we are on a sinking ship. This earth is headed for judgement. The only thing that can save us is Jesus' forgiveness. Just like the life preserver the most important thing for us is Jesus' blessings in word and sacrament.

A certain village - Bethany, only a couple miles from Jerusalem, Jesus on more than one occasion stayed there when he had reason to visit Jerusalem. This takes place 3-4 months before Jesus' death. He is on his way to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of dedication. The festival of dedication is

well known to most of us even today, but is usually known by a different name, Hannukah or the festival of lights. This was a celebration of the rededication of the temple after it was defiled by Antiochus IV Epiphanes. That would put our story in mid-December.

Martha - Martha had two siblings, Mary and Lazarus. Martha is probably the eldest and it sounds like the house belongs to her. In Aramaic Martha actually means mistress, as in mistress of the house. Out of love for Jesus, she regularly welcomes him into her home and provides for him. What a wonderful testament to her faith and love for Jesus, although as we are going to see she takes it a little too far. **"Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me."**

How often do we think that we are right and that the Lord, if he were here, would back us up. Very often couples will come to me for counseling, each convinced that they are right and the other is wrong. In reality they aren't coming to hear God's word, they are coming so that I can back them up and tell their spouse they are wrong. The problem is that because of our sinful nature our priorities are wrong, and so hard for us to see that. We put being right first. It is more important to be forgiving than to be right. The one who is first to forgive is the one who wins the argument. We put cleanliness and tasks first. It is more important to have a loving attitude than to have a clean house. We put money first. It is better to be broke and happily married, than to be rich and be divorced. Above all else we ought to put the word of God first.

Martha's words may actually emphasize her love of Jesus, and in a good way her jealousy of Mary. Perhaps we she was motivated because she too wanted to sit and listen to Jesus, but felt like she had to finish the tasks first. Perhaps she wanted Mary to help her so she could get done and they could sit together at Jesus' feet. Jesus however reminds Martha and us not to allow earthly tasks to keep us from sitting at his feet. Simply put the housework down and come sit at my feet.

Jesus' words also show his love for Martha and for us. He doesn't need the food and service that Martha was offering. He doesn't care about our service to him nearly as much as he cares about his service to us. He would much rather serve us than that we serve him. So many churches get this backwards, they care more about serving God rather than receiving Jesus' service.

Luke 10:41-42 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.

What a privilege it is to sit at the feet of Jesus. How often have you had questions about God and thought wouldn't it be nice to ask Jesus, Or been told we'll find out when we get to heaven. Mary and Martha had the opportunity to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen and ask questions. But Martha thought it more important to clean up and serve the food. It is easy to judge other people and think they should do this or they should do that. But life is always a matter of priorities. You always have to choose.

Martha thought that cooking and cleaning should come first. Jesus disagreed. Mary had her priorities straight, to receive Jesus' gifts comes first. Getting our priorities straight not only brings us closer to God but releases us from the cares and worries of this world. Jesus promises that when we seek him first he will take care of all the rest.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

There is nothing more important than going to Jesus to receive from him the blessing and gifts that he offers. What a privilege to set down our daily tasks and sit with Mary at Jesus' feet.

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

STUDENT PRAYER TLH #286, v. 1 and 6

How precious is the Book Divine, by inspiration given; Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine to guide our souls to heaven.

This lamp through all the tedious night, of life shall guide our way Till we behold the clearer light Of an eternal day.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible. Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account). Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATION

As Jesus blessed the family in Bethany, so you will want Him to:

- bless your heart and home with His presence
- bless your heart and home with His instruction
- bless your heart and home with His correction

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Luke 11:28 - "blessed are those who hear the Word of God, and keep it." Samuel
3:9 - "Speak, Lord; for Your servant hears."

Middle

Luke 11:28 - "blessed are those who hear the Word of God, and keep it." Samuel
3:9 - "Speak, Lord; for Your servant hears."
Luke 19:5 - "today I must stay at your house."

Upper

Luke 11:28 - "blessed are those who hear the Word of God, and keep it." Samuel
3:9 - "Speak, Lord; for Your servant hears."
Luke 19:5 - "today I must stay at your house."
Luke 24:29 - "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And He went in to stay with them."

HYMN CHOICES

The Lord My Pasture Shall Prepare - TLH 368, vs. 1-4 The
Savior Calls; Let Every Ear - TLH 281, vs. 1-5