



# Small Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

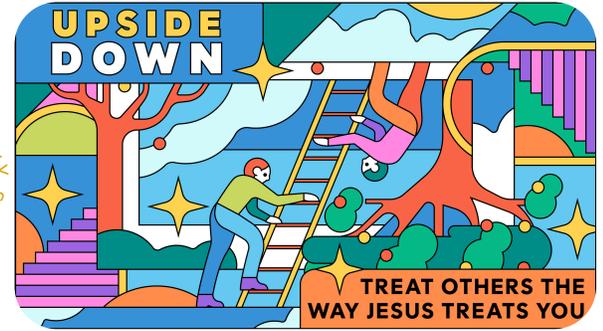
The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

### Small Group Activity (15 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

### Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



## Bible Story

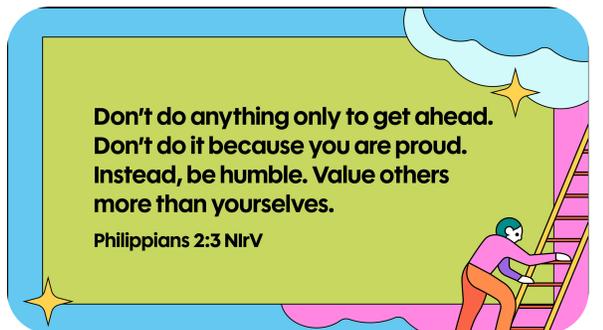
### Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42

## Bottom Line



## Monthly Memory Verse



# Greeting & Prayer



## What You Need

- A Spinning Wheel
- Prayer Chart

## ① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that His love is for the whole world, and that includes you and every person you will ever meet. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you were confused about God, and He met you in your questions. Ask God to help the kids in your group understand that “the whole world” means everyone. Pray they would know God loves them, He loves their family, He loves their friends, and He loves the new person at school.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

## ② What You Say

“Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation.”

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

ACTIVITY ONE

# Broom Relay

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- Bible
- Brooms or dusters
- Crumpled-up balls of paper
- Floor tape

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.



## What You Do:

- Read Luke 10:38-42 to the group and go over today's Bible story.
  - Here are the questions below
    - i. What was Mary doing while Jesus was there? (Answer) Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Him.
    - ii. What was Martha doing? (Answer) She was busy with all the things that had to be done.
    - iii. What did Martha say to Jesus? (Answer) "Lord, my sister has left me to do the work by myself. Don't you care? Tell her to help me!"
    - iv. How did Jesus respond to Martha? (Answer) "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things."
    - v. What did Jesus say is the most important thing? (Answer) Mary has chosen what is better--listening to Jesus --- and it will not be taken away from her.
- After we finish talking about today's Bible story, let's get ready for a fun activity!
- Divide the group into two teams and instruct them to line up on one side of the room, behind a starting line.
- Give the first kid in each line a broom and a paper ball.
- Explain that they will have a relay race. One at a time, they are to use the broom to sweep their paper ball across the room and back.
- Then once the kid reaches their team, after sweeping the crumpled paper ball across the room and back, the next kid in line is to use the broom to do the same thing.
- The twist: When you call out, **"Make time for Jesus first!"** the kids are to freeze right where they are. They can only start again when you say, "Go!"
- Start the race. Shout the freeze command randomly.
- After a moment, say "Go!" and let them continue.
- Continue giving the command at random points.
- The first team to have all the kids on their team finish wins.

## What You Say:

"Great job in that race! It was hard to stop when you were in the middle of working hard, wasn't it? You really wanted to keep going so you could get to the finish line! That's kind of how Martha felt in our story. She was busy, busy, busy. She was busy trying to make the visit for Jesus and His friends wonderful. She was so busy that she got frustrated and upset. While it was good to try to make the visit special, Jesus taught Martha that there was something else that was more important—spending time with Him. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to everything Jesus had to say. She didn't want to miss time with Jesus. It's most important for all of us to [Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first."

ACTIVITY TWO

# Upside Down Drawing

## What You Need

- Cardboard pieces
- Paper
- Markers **(no pencil, please)**
- Tape



## What You Do:

- Tell the kids:
- “We’re going to draw in a very silly, upside-down way today!”
- Give each child a piece of cardboard and a piece of paper.
- Have the kids lie on their backs on the floor. They can hold the cardboard above their heads and draw on the paper.
- Encourage them to draw a picture of themselves spending time with Jesus.
  - Some ideas:
    - Sitting at His feet
    - Praying to Jesus
    - Reading the Bible
- Remind them: “It might feel tricky, but that’s the fun of upside-down drawing!”

## What You Say:

“That was a fun challenge! Drawing upside down is not easy! Sometimes, making time for Jesus when our schedule is already busy can feel ‘upside down.’ But Jesus told us that Mary had chosen what is better. He wants us to [Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first. Martha was so busy doing good things for Jesus that she forgot to simply spend time with Jesus. And Jesus said that being with Him is the most important thing. The most important priority of your life, every day, is your friendship with Jesus.”



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Print “Verse Motions” Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

# Pray and Dismiss



## What You Say

“Dear God, thank You for loving us and wanting to spend time with us. Help us to be like Mary and choose to listen to You and spend time with You. Help us to find quiet moments every day this week to [Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today’s Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that [Bottom Line] Jesus is good news for everyone.

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.