

3-6 | March 22

Bible Story: Mary and Martha • *Luke 10:38-42*

Bottom Line: Make time for Jesus first.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • Philippians 2:3 NIRV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ "Spot the Difference" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Give each pair a "Spot the Difference" Activity Page and a coloring tool.
- Explain that there are two pictures that look almost the same, but some things are different.
- Challenge them to work with their partner to find and circle all the differences.
- Walk around and help pairs that get stuck, giving them clues to help them find the differences.

What You Say:

"Great job, detectives! You had to look very closely to find all the things that were different. Sometimes, two things can look similar, but one is just a little different than the other."

[Transition] "In our true story from the Bible today, two sisters, Mary and Martha, made two different choices about what was most important when Jesus came to visit their home. Let's go find out what they chose!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- For kids who may be overwhelmed by a busy picture, point to one specific area and ask, "Does anything look different right here?"
- Let kids work individually if they focus better that way, celebrating the differences they find on their own.

2. Parachute Story

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Small parachute
- ☐ Snowballs

What You Do:

- Read Luke 10:38-42 out loud to the group.
- Spread the parachute on the floor and scatter the snowballs all over it.
- Instruct the kids to grab the edge of the parachute with you.
- Say, “In our story, Martha was very busy. She was worried and upset about many things. Let’s pretend these snowballs are all the things Martha was busy with. Let’s shake the parachute and make them all jump around!”
- Let the kids shake the parachute for a minute.
- Say, “But Mary made a different choice. She chose to stop and just be with Jesus. Let’s do that now.”
- Remove the snowballs from the parachute.
- Instruct the kids to lift the parachute high over their heads, and then quickly bring it down behind them so they are all sitting underneath it in a quiet “tent.”
- While under the parachute, whisper: “Mary sat quietly at Jesus’ feet, just listening to Him.”

What You Say:

“It was fun to be busy, but it was also nice to be still and quiet, wasn’t it? Jesus told Martha that trying to do all of those nice things for Him and His friends was good, but that Mary had chosen what is better. She chose to **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first.**

“Sometimes we get busy doing lots of different things. Maybe we are busy playing sports or practicing an instrument or drawing or playing with friends. Those are not bad things—in fact, there are a lot of good things we can spend our time doing. But today in our Bible Story, we learned that out of everything we do, it’s most important to spend time with Jesus first. When we **[Bottom Line] make time for Jesus first**, we turn our hearts toward Him, and we can do all of those things aware that He is with us! Making time for Jesus first affects everything!”

3. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- ☐ Small, smooth rocks
- ☐ Paint pens

What To Do:

- Give each kid a rock.
- Talk about how Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to what He said.
- Ask the kids, "When is a good time for you to sit and be quiet with Jesus this week?" (e.g., before bed, in the car on the way to school)
- Let each kid share their idea.
- Use the paint pens to draw a simple heart or cross on each kid's rock. Decorate.
- Let the rocks dry for a moment.

What You Say:

"These are your reminder rocks to take home with you! When you see this rock this week, I want you to remember your plan to spend quiet time with Jesus. You can even hold it in your hand while you talk to God. Let's remember that Jesus said what Mary chose will not be taken away from her. Mary chose to sit and spend time with Jesus. Let's pray now.

"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."