

Session 1 of 4

Mary and Martha meet Jesus

MEETING AIM

To explore the different ways people respond when meeting Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Luke 10:38-42](#)

BACKGROUND

In this series three people who met Jesus knew him well, while two probably only met him once. They all spoke to him and he to them. Each session, talk about the conversation the people had with Jesus, then talk about what we say to Jesus and how we say it.

Mary and Martha, with their brother, were Jesus' close friends. When Lazarus fell ill, they called for him immediately (John 11). Both sisters were clearly comfortable in Jesus' company.

STARTING OUT - 5 mins

Start your time together with some simple refreshments and chat about what it means to have a special friend. What special things can you do with them?

PLAY - 10 mins

You will need: a photograph album or your digital gallery

Ask what it's like to have brothers or sisters. These could be brothers or sisters in any part of your family. What are the good and bad things about being a sibling? Show photos of sisters in your family, alternatively you could use a celebrity family or one in the church with at least two sisters. What is their age difference? What's it like being an older or younger sister?

BIBLE STORY - 10 mins

You will need: a play kitchen set of saucepans, cups etc; bowl of water; beakers; ingredients for making a drink such as fruit, flavoured water, lemonade, ice-cubes; non-plastic straws

Arrange the kitchen set in front of you, so that you can make sound effects indicated – the whole family could make the sounds together. Tell this story:

Jesus and his friends travelled around the country meeting up with people and talking with them. Jesus did have a few special friends, people he could relax with, people who welcomed him into their home. Martha and Mary, with their brother Lazarus, were that sort of friend.

One day, there was a knock on the door. *Rat-a-tat-tat*. Martha ran to answer it and...it was Jesus! "Wow! Mary! Mary! It's Jesus!" She was so pleased to welcome him. He was her favourite guest. She made sure his feet were washed after walking on the dusty road. She did the same for his disciples. *Washing feet sound*. She made sure everyone was comfortable. *Busy sounds*.

"Let me get you something to drink," she said. By now, she was getting flustered. *Flustered breath sounds*. She was pleased to welcome Jesus, but he had come with all his disciples.

They all needed to be looked after. There were so many of them.

Pause for children to mix a drink and drink it.

Martha's guests were hungry, so she had to cook them a meal. They had such big appetites. Martha began to panic. *Drop saucepan lids, cutlery etc making a clatter.*

Martha looked around for her sister. "Mary. Where's Mary? Why isn't she helping me? Surely she isn't with the Jesus and all his disciples!"

Martha bustled into the room where Jesus was. There, sitting right in front of Jesus, was her sister Mary.

Martha tried to catch Mary's eye. Waving arms, tapping foot. But Mary was concentrating on Jesus.

"Mary!" Martha whispered. But Mary never heard. *Waving hands, whispering sounds.*

"Mary! Mary!" *Louder whispering sounds.* Martha frowned. She turned to Jesus and blurted out crossly: "Jesus, tell Mary to come and help me. Doesn't it bother you that she's left me with all this work to do!" *Tutting sounds.*

Everyone in the room looked at Martha, including Mary. Then everyone looked at Jesus to see what he would say. Would he be cross with Mary for being lazy? Would he be cross with Martha for interrupting him?

Jesus turned to Martha and smiled. "It's OK, Martha! I can see you're worried about many things. You've got lots to do and I'm grateful. But it's OK for Mary to listen to me. That's the right thing for her to do now."

Martha knew Jesus had understood her. She didn't need to be anxious. Maybe she could stay to listen. She piled everything up in the kitchen. *Pile up kitchenware quietly so as not to disturb Jesus.*

CHATTING TOGETHER - 5 mins

Chat about the story using some of these questions:

- What tidying-up jobs need doing in your home?
- Choose one job and plan how you will do it: how long it will take, who will do what?
- How would you feel if you were doing this job and were working harder than anyone else?
- How might Martha have felt, with all the food and drink preparation, probably at short notice?

CREATIVE TIME - 10 mins

You will need: paper; card for an invitation; felt-tip pens

Plan for Jesus to visit your home. What would you want Jesus to do? Where would you want him to go? What would you give him to eat? Create a card inviting him to come to your home, or draw the meal you would make him. (You could create this meal on a paper plate, sticking shapes onto it.)

PRAYER - 5 mins

Comment that Jesus wasn't cross with Martha or Mary. He praised Mary for listening to him. He understood how worried Martha was. Talk with Jesus about things that worry you. Ask your family what Jesus might say to you?

Mary might have sung the song 'Who I am' by Awesome Cutlery. The first line of the chorus addressed to God is: "I want to know who I am, So I'll listen to you!"

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