

Open my eyes so I can examine the wonders of your Instruction!
(Psalm 119:18)

Mary and Martha – Luke 10:38-42

Prepare to Wonder

Mary and Martha welcomed Jesus into their home. It was a custom during this time to care for visitors and to prepare a meal for them. Mary and Martha worked to make Jesus, their guest, feel welcome. However, Mary and Martha each chose different approaches to hospitality. Martha chose to prepare the meal, and Mary sat at the feet of Jesus to listen to his teachings. Martha was frustrated with Mary's choice. She asked how Mary could just relax and talk while she was doing all the work to prepare for their meal.

Neither sister was doing anything wrong, but they were different. It can be really easy for us to judge people, like Martha did, if they don't act or respond in ways we think are appropriate. But Martha didn't realize Jesus didn't come just for a meal. He also came to have relationship and conversation with his friends.

While we all respond in different ways, it is important to consider intentionality in our responses. We also must realize that if someone's response is different than ours, it does not mean that person is wrong. Each of us is called to follow Jesus in different ways. What is most important is that we listen to Jesus as a guide in our lives so that we can be faithful and intentional followers.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Think of someone who might need hospitality this week. Consider how you might help this person. You might send a gift, go for a visit, welcome this person in your home, or be a listening ear. Afterward, reflect on your role and how your hospitality is a gift from God.

Use your reflection to consider how you might offer hospitality to your church family or to your community. Share your ideas with your pastor, and see in what ways you might be able to help.

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: CEB Bible, Annual Music CD or song download, optional: Digital Class Pack

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

SAY: Today's faith word is *guide*.

- Show the children the "Guide" poster (Digital Class Pack).

SAY: Guiding is showing the way, like the light of Christ.

WONDER: Who do you listen to as a guide?

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download the song, "Follow As You Go" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play the song, "Follow As You Go." Then sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, optional: Wonder Cube (Digital Class Pack)

READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Luke 10:38-42.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit <https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video> to download and watch today's Bible story, or watch on www.amplifymedia.com.

WONDER together

- Would you welcome Jesus like Martha, with a meal? Why?
- Would you welcome Jesus like Mary, listening to him teach? Why?
- What would you have done to prepare for dinner with Jesus?

CONTINUE to Wonder

- Was Mary or Martha a guide in today's story? How?
- Were you surprised Jesus sided with Mary instead of Martha? If so, why?
- What do you think it would have been like to sit at Jesus' feet and hear him talk?

PRAY together

- Dear God, please be our guide. Amen.

Experience Wonder—Serving Toolbox (Awareness Activity)

Supplies: Bible, toolbox or toolbox-sized cardboard box, stole, hymnal, cleaning cloth, any other tool used by someone who serves your church

Prepare Ahead: Place the serving tools inside your toolbox.

SAY: In our story, Martha shows her love to Jesus by preparing her home for his visit and serving him a meal. Although her way of showing love to Jesus was different than Mary's, Martha's heart was in the right place. Today we're going to do an activity to remind us of different ways a person can serve Jesus at our church.

- Do an "unboxing" of the items in your toolbox by removing them one at a time and discussing them.
- Ask the children what the item is, who might use it, and how the person might use it.

SAY: As you can see, there are many ways to serve, and they all are good.

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Guidance Through Study

- Gather the children in a circle.

SAY: It doesn't matter how we serve as long as we are listening to Jesus and following his instructions for our lives.

- Instruct the children to hold up one hand as if saying, "Stop." Then show them how to use their fingers to represent the word *Stops*.
- Invite the children to repeat after you:

S—Stop.

T—Take a breath.

O—Offer my feelings to God.

P—Pray for peace.

S—Seek ways to serve.

- Encourage families to use the Celebration Chart (Digital Class Pack) and to read the *Winter 2020–21 Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book* at home this week.