











LESSON 2 AT A GLANCE

Mary And Martha

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Come On In!	5	1-6	 		chair, Bible costume
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON Mary And Martha	10	1-6	 		chair, Bible costume
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1-6			
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Balloon Pop Review	5	1-6	   A		balloons
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Learning From Others	10	1-6			member of the congregation
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Listening	10	1-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Listening To Jesus	5	1-2			
Mary & Martha Mix-Up	5	3-4			
Martha & Mary	5	5-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1-2			
iSPEAK	5	3-4			
iSPEAK	5	5-6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand that there are several ways to serve Jesus. They'll realize the importance of serving God and keeping a strong relationship with Jesus.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **30 A.D.** on the **New Testament** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

Mary And Martha

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

BIBLE REFERENCES:

This lesson is based on the following Bible references:

Luke 10:38-41

UNIT AIM:

This unit will show, through the example of New Testament people, that dynamic changes take place when Jesus comes into a person's life. Junior soldiers will learn that Jesus forgives people from all sin if they believe in Him and He helps them minister to others.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO if you received a call letting you know that Jesus was on His way to your house for dinner? Would you race around the house stuffing things into closets, vacuuming floors, washing windows? Would you go to the store to buy ingredients for a gourmet meal, or order out for pizza? Would you decorate your table with paper plates, or bring out the fine china and crystal?

If Jesus were coming to your house for dinner, you'd want to have a clean house, with good food, served on beautiful place settings—nothing but the best for Jesus.

Mary and Martha, the sisters of Jesus' dear friend Lazarus, were preparing for a similar situation. Jesus and His disciples entered the town of Bethany where Mary and Martha lived. Martha welcomed Jesus and His followers into the house; she was excited to serve her Lord.

Martha rushed around the house preparing a meal for Jesus and the disciples. Mary, on the other hand, sat at Jesus' feet listening to His teaching. Martha was upset that Mary was sitting with Jesus instead of helping to prepare the meal. She went to Jesus and said, "Lord, my sister has left me to do the work by myself. Don't you care? Tell her to help me!" (Luke 10:40 NIRV). Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42 NIRV).

Martha demonstrated hospitality when she received Jesus into her home. Her hospitality was important; she was preparing a meal for Jesus and His disciples. According to the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*, Martha's service was important but transitory—eating and drinking won't always be necessary. In *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*, John Cassian writes:

Martha and Mary provide a most beautiful scriptural paradigm of this outlook and of this mode of activity. In looking after the Lord and his disciples, Martha did a very holy service. Mary, however, was intent on the spiritual teaching of Jesus. ... by praising Mary he was saying that the other was a step below her...he was showing that Martha's role could be taken from her, since the service of the body can only last as long as the human being is there, whereas the seal of Mary can never end. (Page 183)

Use this lesson to help your junior soldiers understand there are many ways to serve God, but that it's important not to let our service get in the way of our relationship with God. It's important to continue to listen to Jesus, and obey His teaching.



OPENING ACTIVITY

Come On In!

Before class, put on a robe or piece of fabric so that you are dressed in biblical costume. If you're a male junior soldier leader, you may want to have a female fill in for you during this opening activity and lesson. Place a chair at the front of the room, and leave plenty of space on the floor for all junior soldiers to sit in front of you.

Say: **Welcome to my home. Come on in; take a seat.** (Wait for junior soldiers to sit down and settle down.) **I'm so glad you could come to visit me in my home. During the days when Jesus lived on earth, He visited many different homes. People invited Jesus and His disciples to stop by for a meal or a place to sleep. Jesus and His disciples were always thankful for the kindness of their friends and families. It made their job of teaching and preaching much easier.**

Transition straight into the lesson.

LESSON

Mary And Martha

Say: **My name is Martha. I live in a small town called Bethany with my sister Mary. We have a brother named Lazarus; he's a close friend of Jesus. My sister and I love Jesus so much. We're always happy to serve Him and the disciples whenever we have the chance.**

I want to tell you about a very special day when Jesus came to my house with His disciples. He taught me a very important lesson that day—a lesson I'll never forget.

Jesus came to our small town several times. It was always exciting to hear that He was coming. One day when I saw Jesus and His disciples walking down the road, I quickly went outside to welcome them to my home.

When Jesus and His disciples came into my house, Jesus sat on the chair that I'm sitting on. While I was in the kitchen preparing food and drink for Jesus and the disciples, my sister Mary was sitting on the floor where you're sitting, listening to Jesus. She didn't offer to help me in the kitchen. She ignored me when I was rushing around the house making preparations. Not once did she look up at me and offer to help! How do you think that made me feel? (Allow response.)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- chair
- Bible costume

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- chair
- Bible costume



Say: **Oh, I was upset that my sister wasn't helping. I kept thinking to myself how unfair it was that Mary was listening to Jesus while I was doing all the work! I was so angry that I marched out of the kitchen into the room where Jesus was and said to Jesus, "Don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"**

What do you think Jesus said? (Allow response.) I thought Jesus would tell Mary to get up and help me. I thought He'd agree that it was unfair for me to do all the work while Mary sat around listening to His teaching. However, I was wrong! Jesus said to me, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken away from her."

At first I didn't understand. Why was it better for Mary to listen to Jesus instead of helping me prepare dinner? (Allow response.) My sister knew how important it was to listen to Jesus. She sat at Jesus' feet and listened to every word He had to say. It was important for me to serve Jesus and His disciples, but not so important that I shouldn't listen to Jesus. Jesus wants us to serve Him and to serve others, but if we never listen to Him, we won't know how to serve Him and others. Listening to Jesus is something we all must do. When we ask Jesus to live in our heart, He sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. The Holy Spirit helps us listen to Jesus, and follow His commands.

Say: **Thank you for listening to my story about one of the times that Jesus came to my house in Bethany. Thank you for visiting with me, come visit again!**

MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 23:12 (NIV) 

"Apply your heart to what you are taught. Listen carefully to words of knowledge."

Teach junior soldiers the memory verse by using the following actions.

"Apply your heart" Draw an outline of a heart on your chest

To what you are taught. Open your hands like a book

Listen carefully Cup your ears with your hands

To words of knowledge." Move hands out from your lips, and touch to your forehead.


Encourage junior soldiers to perform the actions while reciting the verse with you.



REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

Balloon Pop Review (option 1)

Before class, copy  A, cut apart the questions on the dotted lines to make separate slips of paper. Place all but the first question in its own balloon, inflate the balloon, and tie it. Read the first question. The junior soldier who answers the question correctly may select a balloon, pop it, and ask the question to the brigade. The junior soldier who answers that question correctly may select a balloon, and so on.

Questions:

- **What are the names of the women from today's story?**
(Answer: Martha and Mary)
- **What town did Martha and Mary live in?** (Answer: Bethany)
- **Who worked hard in the kitchen preparing the meal?**
(Answer: Martha)
- **Who sat at Jesus' feet, listening to Him tell stories?**
(Answer: Mary)
- **Why was Martha upset with Mary?** (Answer: Because she was not helping)
- **What did Jesus say to Martha?** (Answer: Mary was doing the right thing)

Learning From Others (option 2)

Invite someone who has been changed by listening to God's will for their life to come and speak to your junior soldiers about how important it is to listen to God. If no one in your corps meets this description, allow junior soldiers to share their favorite Bible stories while the other junior soldiers listen to them. Ask junior soldiers to share what they think God is trying to say through the various stories.



SIZE WISE:

If you have a large brigade, 10 or more junior soldiers, prepare two sets of balloons, and divide your brigade into two groups. Ask a teenage or adult volunteer to help you with this activity by monitoring one group while you monitor the other. Provide small prizes to the group that finishes first.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A
- balloons



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- member of the congregation



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song #11: "You Are My All in All"
(Track #11, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 23:12 (NirV)

CHORUS: Song #13: "Praise You"
(Track #13, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

DEVOTIONAL

Listening ?

Say: **How many times each day do you hear the word "Listen"?** (Allow response.) You probably hear your teacher say, "Class, listen up!" or "Are you listening?" Your mom or dad might say, "If you listen to what I say, you won't get into trouble." Maybe your friends say, "Let's watch videos and listen to music on YouTube." All day long, people ask you to listen.

God wants us to listen to Him too. God has provided many ways for us to listen to Him. Can you think of some ways we listen to God? (Allow response.) God has given us friends, teachers, corps officers, and parents to help us listen to God, and follow His will. God has given us the Bible so we can read His Word. We also have prayer. Through prayer, not only can we talk to God, but we can listen to Him too!

PRAYER



Remember to fill out
the *What Do You Think*
Evaluation on page 409.

