

# Jesus meets Mary and Martha



**Chat together:** What choices would you make?

- Would you rather have cereal or toast for breakfast?
- Would you rather have a Mars bar or a Milky Way?
- Would you rather have apple juice or lemonade?
- Would you rather help to set the table or wash the dishes?
- Would you rather have a bath or a shower?
- Would you rather watch TV or play outside?

We all have choices every day. Some choices are not important whereas others are. In today's story, two sisters had a choice to make when Jesus came to visit.

**Watch together:** Click on this link to hear Margaret telling the story:

[https://youtu.be/gGw\\_m\\_Jt26E](https://youtu.be/gGw_m_Jt26E)

You might like to read this story too, you can find it in Luke 10:38-42,

**Ask together:**

What did Martha do to show Jesus he was welcome in their home and what did Mary do?

What surprised you most about this story?

I wonder what things you can think of that we can do for Jesus?

I wonder how we can spend time with Jesus?

I wonder if this meeting with Jesus changed the way that Mary and Martha acted afterwards?

Both Mary and Martha were showing Jesus that they loved him by doing the different things they did and Jesus appreciated all those things. However, on this particular day, all Jesus wanted was to talk with Mary & Martha - he wasn't so bothered about the house being clean or tea being ready.

**Pray together:** Jesus said that Mary had chosen the best thing! We can spend time with Jesus too, so find a space and get comfortable. You might like to close your eyes. Imagine Jesus is sitting close by. Spend a couple of minutes telling Jesus silently all the things on your mind and then quieten your thoughts so you can listen to Jesus. You might get a picture come into your mind, a verse from the Bible, a phrase or a sense of peace. (Jesus won't say anything unpleasant.) You may not experience anything at all - which is also fine; it doesn't mean that God doesn't love you!

After a few minutes you might like to share with your family anything that Jesus has said or shown you, or you might like to write it in your journal or draw a picture. Say a simple prayer together thanking Jesus for being with us all the time and wanting to spend time with us.

**Make together:** Margaret showed us some great crafts on the video, why don't you have a go at making them to remind you to spend time with Jesus?

'Spend time with Jesus' clock: use a paper plate or a circle of card. Write the numbers around the edge. Cut out two hands from card - one long one short and fix them in the middle with a split pin if you have one, otherwise just stick the hands on the clock. Write on the words and decorate with crayons or stickers.



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'Shhhh.... I'm spending time with Jesus' door hanger: find a piece of card and cut out a rectangle about 25cm x 10cm. Find something to draw round to make a circle - a cup or I used the inside of a roll of sticky tape. Carefully cut out the circle - the easiest way to start is to gently fold the card without creasing it and snip inside the circle with scissors. Open the card and using the hole as a starting place carefully cut out the circle. Write on the words and decorate.

## **Other activities to try:**

### Spending time with Jesus:

How much time do you spend enjoying being with Jesus?

What are some of the ways we can learn to be in his presence (with him)?

Here are some ways, can you think of any others?

Listening to and singing with a worship CD

Reading the Bible and Bible story books

Writing out a prayer

Drawing a picture based on a favourite Bible story

Lay the table game: You will need a dice, and then for each person - a placemat, a plate, a cup, a spoon, a fork and a bowl, use plastic or toy plates and cutlery. Put everything in a pile to one side of the room or you could play outside. Sit at the table or on a picnic blanket to play.

Take it in turns to roll the dice and for each number go and pick up the corresponding item and lay it in front of you. When you are back the next person rolls the dice. The first person to complete their setting wins! You could play in teams if there are enough of you at home! You need to roll a '1' to start, but can collect the others in any order:

'1' Placemat

'4' Bowl

'2' Plate

'5' Spoon

'3' Cup

'6' Fork

Martha says: Play "Simon Says", but call it "Martha Says" instead - the leader gives simple instructions based on house work - Martha says, sweep. Martha says, peel potatoes, Martha says, wash up and so on. If Martha doesn't say it, they shouldn't do the action.

Colouring picture: print off the picture and colour it on or maybe you could draw a picture of the story. Maybe you could draw yourself with Jesus!

**A thought for parents:** Jesus doesn't want our relationship with him to be based on us feeling that we ought to be doing this, that or the other in order to win his love and approval. He loves us anyway - and our response to that great love is to serve out of a heart overflowing with love for our Saviour.

Unless we cultivate the adoring heart of Mary, we'll never truly enter into the fullness of the relationship that Jesus offers us. I wonder what transformation Martha went through that evening as she let go of her worries and chose to sit at Jesus' feet and gaze into his face...

So whether you feel you are a Martha or a Mary, be encouraged. If you are a Martha, be released from the doing: know that Jesus calls you by name to sit at his feet and simply drink in the intimacy that you find there. If you are a Mary, let the intimacy you understand so well inspire you to pour out your love and service both to Jesus and those you see around you.

