

# Mary and Martha

## Bible Verse

I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do. John 13:15

## Did You Know?

**T**his month we are hearing stories of some of the people Jesus met. Today's Bible story tells about a time when Jesus visited the home of two sisters named Martha and Mary. Martha and Mary lived in Bethany, a village just east of Jerusalem. This is not the only time Jesus visited their home. On a subsequent visit to see Mary and Martha, Jesus raised their brother, Lazarus, from the dead.

When Jesus arrived, Martha welcomed him as a guest. At that time, there were societal and cultural rules of hospitality that seem strange to us today. If travelers arrived at your house, you were expected to extend hospitality to them, whether you knew them or not. This hospitality included providing food and a place to sleep. For Martha, the arrival of Jesus and his disciples meant that food needed to be prepared, so she went about the business of getting a meal ready.

The trouble began when Martha noticed that her sister Mary wasn't helping her welcome their guests. Instead, Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to Jesus teach. To understand the gravity of Martha's complaint, we again must consider the cultural norms of the time. Seated at the feet of a teacher was a place for male disciples. This was not considered a place for women. According to societal rules, Mary should have been helping her sister.

It is clear that Martha expected Jesus to take her side when she complained to him about Mary not helping her. Instead, Jesus gently chided her for being distracted and told her: "Mary has chosen the better part." Jesus' response affirmed the place of women among his followers, a theme repeatedly seen throughout his ministry. Additionally, Jesus emphasized the importance of listening to God's Word. There are many examples in Jesus' teaching that recognize the importance of doing good and helping others. In this story, Jesus reminded Martha that taking time to listen to God is equally important. We also are reminded of the importance of listening to God.

## Bible Story

Luke 10:38-42

## Anchor Point

We can follow  
Jesus' example.

## Your Lesson

### JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: Mary and Martha Puppets
- ☐ Exploration Station: Telephone Game

### DIVE DEEPER:

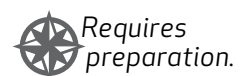
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: Mary and Martha
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

### GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: Listening
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Armenian Food
- ☐ Craft Activity: Listening Mat
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Whole-Body Listening

### WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



*Requires preparation.*



## JUMP IN!

*The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.*

### WELCOME

**Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional),** CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “The People Who Knew Jesus” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

### KIDS STUFF: MARY AND MARTHA PUPPETS

**Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 25-26,** craft glue, scissors, wooden craft sticks (two per child)

- Distribute Mary and Martha Puppets and supplies.
- Let children cut out and assemble the puppets.

**SAY:** We have made puppets of Mary and Martha. Mary and Martha were sisters who welcomed Jesus into their home. Today we will learn more about them in the Bible story.

### EXPLORATION STATION: TELEPHONE GAME

- Invite children to gather on the floor and sit in a circle.

**SAY:** We are going to play a game called “Telephone.” Someone will begin by whispering a phrase or sentence into the ear of the person next to them. Around the circle, we will continue to whisper the phrase or sentence to our neighbors until it reaches the last person in the circle. The last person will say the phrase or sentence out loud so everyone can hear.

- Select someone to go first.
- Invite children to play the game.
- Play the game until everyone has had a chance to go first or as time allows.

**ASK:** Was it easy or difficult to listen carefully to what your neighbor was saying? What happened as the phrase or sentence was passed around the circle? Why is it important to listen carefully?

**SAY:** Today’s Bible story will teach us more about careful listening.



#### ≈ OPTION ≈

Invite children to use the puppets during the Bible story.



#### ≈ OPTION ≈

Make it more challenging by creating a rule that the word or phrase only can be whispered once, so players must pay close attention.

# DIVE DEEPER

## BIBLE STORY TIME

**Supplies:** DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 11, then watch video.

**ASK:** What was Martha doing in the story? What was Mary doing? How did Jesus respond?

## EXPERIENCE THE STORY: MARY AND MARTHA

**Supplies:** Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 11, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 10:38-42, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Call on a volunteer to read aloud the story.

## LOOK IT UP!

**Supplies:** Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

**SAY:** In today's Bible story, Mary listened to Jesus. Listening is important. In another Bible story found in the Old Testament, Samuel heard a voice but he did not realize it was God speaking to him.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles 1 Samuel 3:1-10, then answer the questions.

**ASK:** Who was speaking to Samuel? How can we be careful listeners?

## MY THOUGHTS

**Supplies:** Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

**SAY:** Sometimes we might hear people say that God is speaking or that we need to listen for God's voice in our lives.

**ASK:** What does it mean to listen for God?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

# GROW STRONGER

## LIFE CONNECTION: LISTENING

**Supplies:** Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

**SAY:** Listening can be really hard. But it is important to be a careful listener for others.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Listening.





### ≈ TIP ≈

Be aware of food allergies.



### ≈ OPTION ≈

For a sturdier mat, you could laminate or cover the listening mats with contact paper.



## LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: ARMENIAN FOOD

**Supplies:** Class Stuff—pp. 2-3, 31; napkins; string cheese

**SAY:** In the video, the Deep Blue Kids are trying some Armenian foods.


**ASK:** What kinds of foods do you think they eat in Armenia?

**SAY:** One popular food in Armenia is string cheese.

- Distribute cheese and enjoy a snack together.

## CRAFT ACTIVITY: LISTENING MAT

**Supplies:** Leader Guide—p. 72, card stock, crayons, markers or colored pencils

 Photocopy Listening Mat on card stock, one for each child.

**SAY:** We have been talking about listening, just as Mary listened in the story. Let's make a listening mat we can sit on when we are ready to listen.

- Distribute Listening Mat and coloring tools.
- Encourage children to color and decorate the mat.

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: WHOLE-BODY LISTENING

**ASK:** What part of the body do we use to listen?

**SAY:** Using our ears is how we hear others when we listen.

**ASK:** But did you know we can use our whole body to show that we are listening?

- Encourage children to do the motions and to repeat the "say" after you:  
Point to your eyes.

**SAY:** Eyes on me when I am listening.

Place your hands in your lap.

**SAY:** Hands in my lap when I am listening.

Fold your legs underneath you.

**SAY:** Criss-cross legs when I am listening.

Close your mouth.

**SAY:** My voice is quiet when I am listening.

Cup your hands around your ears.


**SAY:** My ears are turned on when I am listening.



# WORSHIP

## GATHER, SING, AND SIGN


**Supplies:** Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—pp. 10 & 23, Leader Guide—p. 88, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 3 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 88 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “The People Who Knew Jesus” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 3 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

## PRAISE AND REFLECT

**Supplies:** Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 5-6, 8 & 25, 10 & 23, 29; envelope of poster-piece footprints; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse and Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia and poster-piece footprints.

**SAY:** Let’s learn more about God’s wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

**SAY:** We are learning about the people Jesus met.

**ASK:** Who did Jesus meet in the Bible story today?

- Display poster-piece footprints. Invite a volunteer to locate the figure of Mary and Martha and attach it to Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse.

**SAY:** Jesus met lots of new friends in the Bible. These stories teach us about living by Jesus’ example.

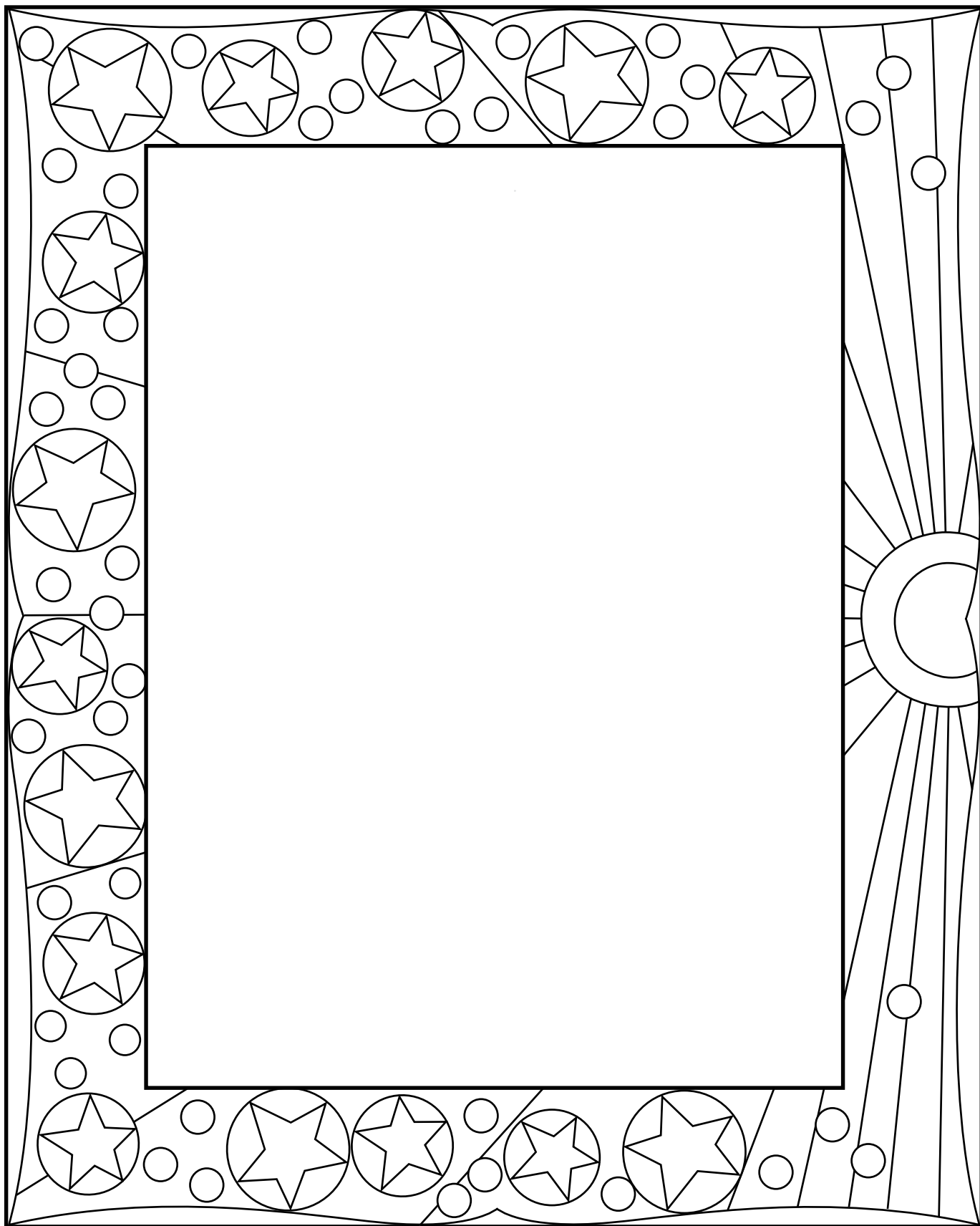
**ASK:** How can you live by Jesus’ example?

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.
- Invite them to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

**PRAY:** Dear God, help us to listen like Mary and thank you for the example of Jesus. May we always live according to his ways. Amen.



## Craft Activity: Listening Mat



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