

# Mary and Martha



New Testament 3  
Part 2: New Testament Teams (Cohorts)

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-46; 12:1-9

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "But seek first the kingdom of God..." (Matthew 6:33a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- "[Matthew 6:33](#)"
- "[Mary, Martha, and Lazarus](#)"
- "[Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God](#)"

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Apostles & N.T. Teams](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 3 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Later Ministry of Jesus A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; skip card CD 4.3)

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must never be too busy to talk to God, or too busy to study His Word everyday.



## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week we studied about a mother and grandmother, Lois and Eunice, who taught Timothy about God. This week we are going to learn about sisters. Their names are Mary and Martha. We are going to talk about how Mary made a smart choice. We make choices everyday, and we must always try to make choices that will make God happy.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)


Review last week's lesson.

Discuss examples of choices we make everyday, from what to wear and eat, to how we treat others, and what words come from our mouths. Some choices are more important than others. We must always try to make the choices that will be pleasing to God.

The “team” we will talk about today is Mary and Martha. When Jesus came to their house, they each had a choice to make. One made a choice that was pleasing to Jesus.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus, were good friends of Jesus. Toward the end of Jesus' life, He enjoyed spending time with them in their home in Bethany, near Jerusalem. [**Bethany** was about a mile from the Mount of Olives.] They were a wealthy family, well-respected in their small town, as is indicated by the number of people who came to share the sisters' grief when Lazarus died. Apparently, none of the three was married.



**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Because it was so close, Bethany was a common place for Jewish pilgrims to stop when on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate different feasts during the year. Guests were usually served a three-course meal, followed by desserts and fruit. Traveling teachers were often fed in return for sharing their knowledge and insights.

2. At what may have been Jesus' first visit to their home (Luke 10:38-42), Martha acted as the hostess, working very hard to prepare food for the apostles and Him. Without electricity and indoor plumbing, pre-packaged foods, microwaves, refrigerators, or any other modern conveniences, preparing meals was a hard job. To prepare meals for 13 additional men was a huge task. Martha was frantically trying to get everything done. She was not only doing what was expected of her, but she was showing her love for Jesus in the way she knew best.
3. While Martha was busy working, her sister Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him teach. In Bible times, people normally reclined on couches at meals, rather than sitting in chairs at a table. “[D]isciples sat at the feet of their teachers. Serious disciples were preparing to be teachers—a role not permitted to women... Mary's posture and eagerness to absorb Jesus' teaching at the expense of a more traditional womanly role would have shocked most Jewish men.” (*Bible Background Commentary*, p. 218).
4. Martha, tired and “distracted with her preparations,” asked Jesus, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” Martha let her fatigue and frustration get to the point that she felt compelled to tell Jesus what to do! Jesus understood

and appreciated Martha's efforts, but His response undoubtedly surprised her. "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42). While it was important for Jesus and His followers to have food to eat, and Martha showed love in her desire to serve the group, Mary's choice to learn from the Savior Himself was much more important. Food will not last, but Jesus' words will last forever.

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, STOP HERE AND USE THE STORY OF JESUS RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

5. The next time that we read about Jesus being with this family was after Lazarus died. He loved them very much and wept openly when He saw the sadness of Mary and Martha (John 11:35). Jesus helped them as only He could; He brought Lazarus back to life! Because of this great miracle, many people believed in Jesus and gave glory to God.
6. The third time we read about Jesus being with this family was six days before His final Passover meal (the Saturday before His crucifixion; John 12:1-8). He was in their home for another meal, and Martha was again busy working to prepare and serve the food. Lazarus was reclining at the table with the Lord. Mary chose to show her love and devotion to Jesus this time by giving Him something very special: a container of very expensive **perfume**. After all, her brother had recently been raised from the dead, and Mary was very grateful. She broke the container and poured the perfume on Jesus' feet, then wiped His feet with her hair. Pouring the perfume over His feet was her way of giving something back to Jesus, as well as worshipping Him. Judas Iscariot criticized Mary for "wasting" the perfume, but Jesus praised her, saying she had anointed Him for His burial.



**HISTORICAL NOTE: Spikenard perfume** was the fragrant oil from an Indian plant grown near the Himalayas. The "pound" (or "pint") may have been as much as 12 ounces; the average perfume container contained not more than an ounce. The amount Mary poured on Jesus' feet would have cost almost a year's wages. It was customary to anoint the head of an important guest with small amounts of oil or perfume, but water was normally provided to wash feet.

7. Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus very much, just as He loves us. He wants us to learn from the choices they made. From Mary and Martha we learn that physical things are not what are most important. Regardless of how many things we have to do, or how busy we are, we must always keep spiritual things in mind—especially prayer and studying God's Word everyday. These are ways we can "sit at Jesus' feet" and choose "the best part." We have choices to make everyday: to talk to God or talk to friends for hours on the phone (or through e-mail); to study God's Word or watch TV; to do things for ourselves or do something for someone else, etc.

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS** (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

**Ages 2-5:**

- "[Mary and Martha Coloring Sheet](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Lay pictures on a table (or attach them to the board) of things to remind kids of choices they have

to make. Ask them, “What choice will help you become more like Jesus?”

- Play Bible Bowling with review questions about this and previous lessons: set up ten pins on the ground (i.e., toilet paper rolls or cups) in the shape of a triangle. If the child answers a question correctly, he can roll a ball at the pins. He can continue answering and rolling, as long as he gets the answers correct, until the pins are all knocked down. If he misses a question, the next child takes a turn. Whoever knocked over the most pins in all by the end of the game wins.
- Draw a perfume bottle and decorate it. Spray with perfume for something extra special!

### 1st-2nd Graders:

- Play Bible Alphabet Soup, using names of characters discussed in this unit. Give each child a set of magnetic or cutout letters. (If you have enough sets of letters, give one per child. If not, divide the class into teams of two or three and give one per group.) Choose words or names from lesson(s) that can be spelled with the letters. Tell the kids the game is a race to spell the word/name you will say. Whoever spells the word/name first must be able to tell who or what that word describes.
- Play Tic Tac Toe with each of the nine squares labeled topically. Example topics and [questions](#) are provided in the activity sheets, or use the NT3 review questions ([Tic Tac Toe Board](#) provided in activity sheets).
- “[Sister, Sister Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Two Sisters Who Loved the Lord True or False](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Who Said...?](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- Play Bible Alphabet Soup, using names of characters discussed in this unit. Give each child a set of magnetic or cutout letters. (If you have enough sets of letters, give one per child. If not, divide the class into teams of two or three and give one per group.) Choose words or names from lesson(s) that can be spelled with the letters. Tell the kids the game is a race to spell the word/name you will say. Whoever spells the word/name first must be able to tell who or what that word describes.
- Play Tic Tac Toe with each of the nine squares labeled topically. Example topics and [questions](#) are provided in the activity sheets, or use the NT3 review questions ([Tic Tac Toe Board](#) provided in activity sheets).
- “[Sister, Sister Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Two Sisters Who Loved the Lord True or False](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Who Said...?](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
  - *Martha and Her Sister Mary*, Famous People of the Bible, Scandinavia Publishing, Joy Melissa Jensen
  - *Jesus, Mary, and Martha*, The Beginner’s Bible, Zonderkidz, Catherine DeVries
  - *Good, Better, Best: The Story of Mary and Martha*, Me Too! Books, Candle Books, by Marilyn Lashbrook
  - *Martha & Mary: Friends of Jesus*, A Bible Time Book, Christian Focus, Carine Mackenzie (DISCLAIMER: add note on p. 14 that says, “Those who truly believe will be saved, because they will obey Jesus and be baptized (Mark 16:16).”)
  - *Get Up, Lazarus!* Arch Book
  - *If Jesus Came to My House*, by Joan G. Thomas, Harper Collins Publishers

(DISCLAIMER: Skip two pages depicting worship. You could tape them together.)

- *Jesus Raises Lazarus*, Zonderkidz “I Can Read!” Series
- *A Better Thing to Do: The Story of Jesus and Mary and Martha*, by Patricia L. Nederveld, God Loves me Series (DISCLAIMER: Skip the “Suggestions for Follow-up” at the end)

## SONGS:

### “MATTHEW 6:33”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart 2](#)” CD)

### “MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook (adapted)

(Tune: “More, More About Jesus”)

Now about Martha let us tell; she liked to serve her company well,  
But Mary chose the better part; she loved the Lord with all her heart.

CHORUS:

O how they did love Him! O how they did love Him!  
O how they loved the Savior so, Mary and Martha, long ago.

Their brother, Lazarus, got sick one day, while the Master was gone away;  
When He returned, Lazarus had died, and with the sisters, Jesus cried.

(CHORUS)

“Lazarus, come forth,” the Savior said; Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.  
“Loose him now and let him go!” O He did love his three friends so!

(CHORUS)

### “SEEK YE FIRST, THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

[See Internet for words and tune]

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.





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## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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### MEMORY WORK:

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OLDER CHILDREN: "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

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### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must never be too busy to talk to God, or too busy to study His Word everyday.





## INTRODUCTION:


[N.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

### FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

2. The next time that we read about Jesus being with this family was after Lazarus died. He loved them very much and wept openly when He saw the sadness of Mary and Martha (John 11:5,35). Jesus helped them as only He could; He brought Lazarus back to life! Because of this great miracle, many people believed in Jesus and gave glory to God.
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### FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

5. Spend more time emphasizing the choices we make each day, especially ones that deal with making God happy (how we treat our friends; obeying our parents; how we dress; the words that come out of our mouths; the things we watch on TV; how we spend our free time; etc.).



**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- See Sunday morning’s lesson.
- Prepare and practice a skit with a narrator, Jesus, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Let the children take turns to ensure that all are able to participate. Bring old sheets or pillowcases to make a headscarf for each child. Bring old kitchen items for Martha to use such as a mixing bowl, pitcher, dishcloths, etc. Can have a skit about each time Jesus was with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

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