

19. Jesus and Two Sisters



19

Jesus and Two Sisters

Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Jesus and Two Sisters" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Remind the children that we can talk to Jesus, too—and he listens to us! Close with prayer, giving each child who's comfortable a chance to pray.

Close by thanking God for the Bible and for speaking to us through it. Thank God for listening to us, and ask that our ears and hearts will be open to listening to God this week.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #122 or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

**God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.*

Easy Extra

*Create a mobile about listening to Jesus. Print enough circles from [this printable page](#) so that each child has at least one circle to color. Cut a piece of heavier paper 4" x 12" (10cm x 30cm) for the top of your mobile, and write **Listen to Jesus** on both sides. Punch 8 holes into the bottom of this paper and one hole in the center of the top.*

Have children cut out the circles, color them, and add additional stickers or decorations if available. Punch a hole through each circle and attach them to the top of the mobile with different lengths of yarn. Hang the mobile in your DWELL space or home where everyone can enjoy it.

If you're leading this lesson virtually, remember to send the printable page to families so that they can create listening to Jesus mobiles for their homes.

Story: Jesus and Two Sisters [Luke 10: 38-42](#)

Open your Bible and read [Luke 10:38](#) to tell the kids how the story begins.

Martha is a busy lady! She has company coming for dinner—and staying overnight. That means she has to buy food and make sure all the chores are done. **What special things does your family do when you have company coming for dinner?** *(Pause for responses.)*

The company coming to Martha's house isn't just any guest—it is Jesus, a close friend of the family. Some of the disciples who are with Jesus might be coming too. So Martha gets busy. Here are the things I imagine she does:

First: She picks up the rugs and shakes them outside.

Second: She sweeps the floor and puts the rugs back down.

Third: She puts clean sheets on the bed Jesus will use.

Fourth: She gets a cloth and dusts the furniture.

Do you do any of these chores at your house? *(Pause for responses.)*

Fifth: She puts on a jacket, gets her shopping bag and some money, and walks to the market.

Sixth: She stops at the fruit and vegetable stand and looks at some pomegranates, lentils, figs, and olives. She decides which foods to buy, pays for them, and puts them in her bag.

What do you think Martha bought? (*Pause for responses.*)

Seventh: She goes to the meat stand and looks at the lamb and the fish. She sniffs the fish and looks carefully at the lamb. She decides what to buy, pays for it, and puts it in her bag.

What do you think she chose? (*Pause for responses.*)

Eighth: She stops at the flower stand and buys some flowers. She carries them in her arms.

Ninth: She hurries back home, thinking about all she still has to do. A couple of times she stops to talk with friends.

Tenth: She gets home, puts the stuff on the table, and grabs her apron.

Eleventh: She washes the fruit and vegetables.

Twelfth: She cleans the fish—I think that's what she bought. Peeuuuw! A stinky job!

Thirteenth: She is exhausted. She drops into her favorite chair to rest a minute.

Fourteenth: She gets up and starts mixing flour, salt, and water to make bread.

Fifteenth: She goes out to gather wood and small twigs to start the fire so it will be ready when it's time to bake the bread.

Sixteenth: She gets out the dishes and sets the table.

Suddenly she sees Jesus. She is very tired but so happy to see him! She takes off her apron and greets him at the door. And did I mention that Martha has a sister? Her name is Mary. She runs to greet Jesus too.

After a few minutes of chit-chat, Martha goes back to the kitchen because the food has to be cooked. Mary follows Jesus into the family room. Jesus and Mary begin to talk. Mary listens so closely to what Jesus is saying that she isn't even thinking about Martha and all the work that she is doing.

Meanwhile, Martha is in the kitchen—again! And yes, she puts her apron back on. It's very hot in there, and she's sweating.

Let's see. Now we're up to . . .

Seventeenth: Martha puts oil in the pan, rolls the fish in flour and puts it in the pan, and then puts the pan on the fire.

Eighteenth: Martha starts preparing the lentil stew. She puts it in a pan on the fire to cook.

Nineteenth: She puts the olives, figs, and pomegranates in special bowls and carries them to the table.

Touch your nose if you like olives. *(Pause for responses.)*

Twentieth: Oh, no! She just remembered that she forgot to get something special to drink. She is frantic! Quickly she looks through her cupboards to see if she has any tea. Whew! She does! Tea will be good.

Martha is about to make tea when it suddenly hits her that she is doing all the work and Mary is just sitting there in the family room, enjoying herself, listening to every word that Jesus is saying. Suddenly Martha is not happy!

What do you think about that? Is Martha right to be upset? *(Pause for responses.)*

Martha wipes her hands on her apron and goes into the family room. She walks up to Jesus and says, "Lord Jesus, don't you even care that my sister, Mary, has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus looks at Martha. She has flour in her hair and spots on her apron. Food is boiling away in the kitchen. Jesus loves Martha. But this is what he says, "Martha, Martha! You are so busy and worried about all the preparations and cooking. But only one thing is really needed—and Mary has chosen that. What Mary is doing—listening to me—is better than worrying about getting things done."

Wow! Does that surprise you? What do you think Jesus meant? *(Pause for responses.)*

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Mary and Martha Learn about Jesus](#)
 - [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus and Two Sisters](#)
-