



What a Mess

Mary and Martha

BIG IDEA: Jesus wants to spend time with me.

BIBLE BASIS: Luke 10:38–42

KEY VERSE: “Give thanks to the LORD, because He is good. His faithful love continues forever.” Psalm 107:1 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

According to author Gary Chapman, there are five love languages — five ways that we feel or experience love. He says that some people experience love best through words of affirmation, others through receiving gifts, others through acts of service, others through physical touch, and others through quality time.

But did you know that God also has a love language — a way that He feels love? In fact, He has all five! He wants us to praise Him with our mouth, to give freely to His Church and to those in need, to serve Him with the gifts and passions He's bestowed on us, and yes, to hold and hug those who are unlovable.

But one love language that often gets overlooked by Christians is time — *quality* time. A prayer, hurriedly said in the checkout line, while good, is not exactly quality. A quick cry for help in a moment of trouble, while good, is not exactly quality. God wants us to make quality time for Him — time where we read His Word, talk to Him, and focus on Him fully, completely, and without distraction.

I challenge you to do that right now. Take ten minutes, and give God quality time with you.

Jonathan White
GO! Contributor

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LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Telling Personal Stories

There are few communication tools as engaging and powerful as a well-told personal story. At times the GO! curriculum will prompt you to tell a personal story, but feel free to add one anywhere you think it's appropriate. Consider these few things when telling a personal story:

Be sure it's age appropriate. For some of us, our lives before Christ may have been rated PG-13 (or, dare I say, R). Be mindful that the content and details of your story are appropriate for General audiences.

Be sure it's relevant. Your recent conversation with a co-worker about the rumors of a corporate takeover may be the perfect metaphor for sin's infiltration of the world, but your preschool kids can't even begin to grasp that concept. Be sure your story takes place in a world that is familiar to a young audience. Consider telling a story about something that took place when you were a kid. The kids in your ministry will eat that up!

Be sure that it fits. Sometimes we have a story that is so great we can't wait to tell it, even if it doesn't fit. Don't force a story to fit the lesson or vice versa. The perfect story is one that you can tell and the kids will understand the connection with little explanation. If you have to explain the connection too much, you might just want to save it for another time.

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UNIT DESCRIPTION

During “What a Mess,” preschoolers will meet Messy Mabel — a playful pig who just can’t stay out of the mud! Mabel has made a mess all over our Bible story pictures, and it’s up to the kids to help wipe away the mud and reveal what’s underneath. As they clean up Mabel’s mess, kids will learn that no mess is too big for Jesus to wipe away.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Put a pig puppet or plush toy in the storytelling area. Alternatively, you can print the “Messy Mabel” pig picture on one 8½” x 11” cardstock paper. (See Resource Folder.)
- Print the “Bible Story Pictures and Mud Covers” on 8½” x 11” cardstock. (See Resource Folder.) Place one Mud Cover over the top of each Story Picture. Using Scotch tape, tape the Picture Cover and Story Picture together along the left side as if you are binding a book. Cut along the dotted lines on each of the Mud Covers. (Do NOT cut the Story Picture below it.) When finished, you should be able to fold each of the four strips of the Mud Cover back, thus revealing the Story Picture a little bit at a time. There are 4 story pictures in all:
 - House
 - Broom
 - Ear
 - Mad face
- Create a “Super Duper Bible Box” and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the “Super Duper Bible Box.”
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher’s Story Time Rules signs and Topher’s Big Idea signs on 8½” x 11” cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See “Getting Started” in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

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★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello, everybody! I'm so glad to see you. Look who joined us again. It's Messy Mabel! She's a messy little pig who loves playing in the mud. Mabel is going to help us learn a Bible story.

Say: Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **Jesus wants to spend time with me.** That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **Jesus wants to spend time with me.** It's true! **Jesus wants to spend time with me.** In fact, that's what our memory verse from the Bible tells us. Let me teach it to you.

*“Give thanks (put hands in prayer position)
to the LORD (point up),
because He is good (two thumbs up).
His faithful Love (put hands over heart)
Continues forever.” (Spread hands out)
Psalm 107:1 (extend hands like you're holding a book).*

Say: Let's do that together. *(Repeat memory verse with children two or three times.)*

2s & 3s - STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: Play “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video

(Note: Play the “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

Pre-K & K - Bible Trivia

- Who Wrote the book of Matthew? (Matthew)
- Who wrote the book of Mark? (Mark)
- Who wrote the book of Luke? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of John? (John)
- Who wrote the book of Acts? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of Romans? (Paul)
- The Bible is split into two parts. What are they called? (The Old & New Testament)
- What is the difference? (Jesus was born in the New Testament)

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WHAT A MESS INTRO

Say: Have you ever asked somebody to play with you, but they said, “I’m too busy”? Maybe your mom is too busy vacuuming. Let’s pretend to vacuum the floor together. (*Pretend with children.*) Maybe your dad is too busy mowing the lawn. Let’s pretend to mow the lawn together. (*Pretend with children.*) Maybe your friend is too busy cleaning their room. Let’s pretend to pick up toys together. (*Pretend with children.*) How does it make you feel when everyone is too busy to play with you? (*Take answers.*) Great answers.

Say: Believe it or not, that happens to grown-ups too. In fact, in today’s true Bible story, somebody was too busy to spend time with Jesus. If you’re ready to hear that story, wiggle your fingers in the air. (*Children wiggle fingers in the air.*) Great! First, let’s get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. (*Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.*) I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It’s true, it’s true, the Bible is true!

Slide: Show the “Mary and Martha” slide

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BIG BIBLE STORY — MARY AND MARTHA

(During the story, when indicated, hold up the appropriate mystery picture. Each picture will be covered by four strips of paper. Each strip has part of a mud splatter on it. To start, fold one of the strips back to reveal a portion of the picture. Allow the children to guess what the picture is. After a moment, fold back another strip and let them guess again. Continue folding back the strips in random order until the children can guess the picture correctly.)

Say: In the Bible, in the Book of Luke, Jesus and his disciples walked to a village where a woman named Martha lived. Let's look at our first Bible story picture to see what happened next. Oh no! It looks like Messy Mabel splashed mud on our pictures again. That's okay! We can wipe the mud off a little bit at a time. **(Video 1 – House)**

Say: When Martha saw Jesus, she was so happy. She invited Jesus to her house to visit with her and her sister, Mary. Let's clean the mud off another picture to see what happened next. **(Video 2 – Broom)**

Say: Martha wanted everything to be just right. She worked very hard — sweeping the floor, cleaning, cooking, and getting things ready for Jesus. She was very busy! Let's clean up another picture to see what happened next. **(Video 3 – Ear)**

Say: But Mary did something different. Mary sat down near Jesus and listened to Him. She wanted to hear every word He said. She knew that listening to Jesus was very important. Let's clean the mud off one more picture to see what Jesus said. **(video 4 – Mad Face)**

Say: Martha looked at Mary and got mad. She said to Jesus, "Jesus, don't you care that Mary isn't helping me? Tell her to help me!" Jesus looked at Martha and said kindly, "Martha, Martha, you are worried about so many things. But Mary has chosen what is better. She made the right choice — and it won't be taken away from her." You see, Jesus didn't need the house to be cleaned, or the food to be made, or the dinner table to be set. The one thing Jesus wanted was to spend time with Martha.

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MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Encourage the children to stand up. Lead them in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)

Music: Play one worship song

Say: In our story for today, Mary sat with Jesus and listened to Him talk, but not Martha — she was too busy. What was Martha busy doing? *(Take answers.)* That's right — she was busy getting everything ready for Jesus. But that's not what Jesus wanted. Jesus wanted to spend time with Martha. He wants to spend time with us too.

Say: We can't see Jesus like Mary and Martha did, but we can still spend time with Him. Do you know how? *(Hold up Bible.)* That's right — we can spend time with Jesus by listening to His words from the Bible. Let's think of some times we can read the Bible. I'll act something out, then you tell me what it is.

- *(Act like you're waking up.)* We can read the Bible when we wake up in the morning.
- *(Act like you're driving a car.)* We can read the Bible while we're riding in the car.
- *(Act like you're eating dinner.)* We can read the Bible with our family at the dinner table.
- *(Act like you're going to bed.)* We can read the Bible when we go to bed at night.

Say: Great job! There are *lots* of times we can read the Bible. Sometimes we can look at the pictures by ourselves, and sometimes we can say, "Mommy and Daddy, will you read the Bible to me?" Let's say that together. *(Repeat with children.)* Jesus LOVES when you read the Bible, because **Jesus wants to spend time with you.**

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TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **Jesus wants to spend time with me**. On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!"

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **Jesus wants to spend time with me.** (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and thank Jesus for spending time with us. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

**Dear Jesus,
Thank You for the Bible.
It's full of Your words.
Help me spend time with You
By reading the Bible.
Amen.**