



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



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

The Magic Circle

When it comes time for you to sit down with your small group, there is no better configuration than a circle. If you have a group of younger kids who find it difficult to seat themselves in a nice circle, have them first hold hands in a circle and then sit down. The benefits of sitting in a circle are well worth the time it takes to organize your kids in the beginning. Here's why:

Everybody feels like they are a part of the group. When your group is arranged in a big clump, the kids sitting toward the outside often don't feel like they're a part of what's going on and their attention goes elsewhere. In a circle, no one is on the outside.

The kids will talk to one another, not just you. You are the facilitator of conversation, not the center of it. If you organize your group like a miniature classroom, kids will become accustomed to talking and listening only to you. A circle allows kids to feel like they're connected to everyone in the group.

It's easier to manage. When there's a direct line of sight between you and all of the kids, they're more apt to behave. You can quickly and easily address interruptions. Are there two kids distracting each other? Separate them in the circle. Is there a kid who is more difficult to manage? Seat him next to you in the circle.

You can use eye contact to your advantage. Eye contact invites participation. If you have a kid who seldom participates, consider placing her across from you in the circle where she'll get more eye contact. Conversely, you can place kids who dominate conversation next to you.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

WHAT A MESS (Application Activity)

Supplies: Tub of toys (1 per group)

Say: In today's true Bible story, Martha was so busy cooking and cleaning that she missed out on spending time with Jesus. We're going to play a game that helps us remember to stop and spend time with Jesus.

Directions: Have each child dump out a tub of toys (or one as a group). Next, say, "Oh no! We made a mess! Time to clean up." Tell the children to pick up the peanuts and place them back in the box as quickly as they can. While they're cleaning up, periodically shout, "Freeze!" The children must immediately stop cleaning, freeze in place, and say, "**Jesus wants to spend time with me.**" The children may then resume cleaning up. When finished cleaning, do it again. Repeat as many times as interest allows.

Question: Reading the Bible is a great way to spend time with Jesus. Can you think of some other ways you can spend time with Jesus? (Suggested answers: praying, going to church, singing songs to Jesus, etc.)

2s & 3s – Large Group at 10:55
Pre-K & K – Large Group at 11:15



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE (Application Activity)

Supplies: Bible stickers (7 per child), seven-day calendar (1 per child), markers or crayons

Preparation: Print the Bible stickers on Avery® 1-inch diameter, white, round labels (6450). Cut the label sheets into strips with seven stickers per strip.

Say: In today's true Bible story, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Him talk. We can listen to Jesus talk by reading His words in the Bible. Let's make a calendar that helps us remember to read the Bible every day.

Directions: Give each child a seven-day calendar and a strip of seven stickers. Each sticker will have a picture of the Bible. Give the children a few minutes to color the Bible stickers. While they're coloring, challenge the children to read their Bible one time every day for the next seven days. Tell them to ask their parents for help. Each day, after they read their Bible, they can remove one of the stickers and place it on the calendar. When the children are finished coloring, open a children's Bible and read a story to them. They can choose the Bible story, or you can choose for them. Afterwards, have the children remove the first sticker and place it on the calendar. Encourage them to continue doing this for the rest of the week.

Encourage the children to bring the calendar back next week. If the boxes are all filled in with stickers, they can pick a prize from the treasure box.

BIBLE BRIDGE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: None

Today's Bible verse:

*“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).*

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. Next, choose two children to form a “bridge” by facing each other and holding hands in the air. Tell the other children to get into a line and walk in a circle under the “bridge.” As the children march in a circle, sing the following words to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down.”

*Can you say our memory verse, memory verse, memory verse?
Can you say our memory verse?
It's your turn!*

At the end of the tune, have the two children forming the bridge lower their arms around the child who is under the bridge. Encourage the child who is trapped under the bridge to say the verse aloud. When finished, have the “trapped” child replace one of the children making up the bridge and repeat. Continue until everyone has had a turn saying the verse.



STORYTIME WITH MABEL (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Messy Mabel picture or pig plush toy (1 per group)

Directions: Ask the children the questions below. Each question will help them recount a part of today's Bible story. When a child wants to answer a question, hand them the Messy Mabel plush or picture. Remind the children that they can only talk if they're holding Mabel. Continue until the whole story has been recounted.

1. Who came to visit Mary and Martha at their house?
(*Jesus!*)
2. What was Martha doing while Jesus was visiting?
(*She was busy working — cleaning and cooking.*)
3. What was Mary doing while Jesus was visiting?
(*She was sitting and listening to Jesus.*)
4. Why did Martha get upset?
(*Because Mary wasn't helping her with the work.*)
5. What did Jesus say was the better choice?
(*Listening to Him — just like Mary was doing.*)

TIME WITH JESUS (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), crayons

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a picture of themselves reading the Bible. Or, for younger children, have them draw just the Bible. When finished, ask the children to show their pictures and tell what they love about the Bible.

Say: Jesus wants to spend time with you! One way you can spend time with Jesus is by reading His words in the Bible. Let's say a prayer and tell Jesus "thank you" for the Bible. We can tell Him what we love about the Bible, too.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking Jesus for His words in the Bible.

Question: If you could spend a day with Jesus, what would you do with Him?

Question: Reading your Bible is a great way to spend time with Jesus. Do you have a favorite time or place to read the Bible?