

Session 3



“Jesus Over My Priorities”

(Mary and Martha)

Purpose: To recognize that Jesus should be the object of our focus.

Group Practice Check -In: Discipleship is about putting our faith into practice. Let's take a quick look back at last week:

- Which application option did you try this week and how did it go? (If you didn't do it, that's OK, but can you identify why not?)

Icebreaker: Do you have siblings? If so, what kind of relationship do you have with them?

Read: Luke 10:38-42

Observe: What do you think about this passage? What do we know about Mary and Martha?

Discuss:

Martha is the one who “opened her home” to Jesus and she is the one working hard to be a good host (which was very important in Jewish culture). But Jesus says Mary is the one with the right focus.

- Is Martha wrong for caring about the preparations and details of hosting?
- In your own life, when has a good thing (behavior, mindset, belief, etc) become unhealthy? Or when have you settled for something good instead of something great?

We often group ourselves with either Martha or Mary. Many who identify with Martha do so because they identify with the desire to care for the preparations, but this isn't just about

whether you'd choose Jesus over cleaning the house or cooking for guests.

- What thing or focus in your life is most likely to turn you into a “Martha”? In other words, what in your life is most likely to distract you from sitting at the feet of Jesus?

Leader notes: Look at everything, but don't skip over the “good” things. Even “being a good parent” can turn unhealthy if it draws you away from the feet of Jesus.

It could be said that, at some point, the house needs to get cleaned and mouths need to get fed.

- If we're only ever sitting at the feet of Jesus, when do you take care of chores, go to work, and so on?
- What does that balance look like for you personally? How could it be better?

Read: John 11:21, 32 and John 12:1-3

Observe:

- What pattern do we see in Mary's interactions with Jesus?
- How has Martha changed throughout her story?

Discuss:

In Luke 10, we saw Martha overwhelmed, anxious, and frustrated while serving in the kitchen. But here in John 12, we see her serving again—only this time, without the complaints or tension.

- What shift do you see in Martha's heart between these two moments?
- How do we move from doing things for God out of obligation to serving with God out of devotion?
- Is there a time in your own life where focusing on Jesus was either a major challenge (like Martha) or felt like your natural reaction (like Mary)?

Read: John 12:3-8

Observe: What's the worldly response to someone focusing on Jesus?

Discuss:

In Luke 10, Martha went to Jesus because she was upset with Mary. In John 12, Judas went to Jesus because he was upset with Mary. In both passages, Jesus defends Mary because she's focusing on what's good (Jesus) and they're focusing on something else (personal anxiety and greed).

- As we shift our focus away from the world and onto Jesus, how might we prepare for the world's reaction?

Application Suggestions:

Leader notes: Ask everyone to pick a practice for this week, and explain that you will ask them about it next week

"Sitting at the Feet" Pause. Set a daily 2-minute timer before you start your routine (or look at your phone) to sit in silence with Jesus. Simply pray: "Jesus, You are my primary focus today."

The Priority Swap. Identify one "good" distraction this week that tends to pull you away from God or family (e.g., extra chores, news, social media). Trade 15 minutes of that activity for reading Scripture or prayer.

Person over Preparation. Invite someone to your home this week with a single focus: prioritize the person over the preparations. Intentionally leave a few chores undone so you can sit, listen, and be fully present without rushing.