

Session 7

Martha and Mary

Intro

Last week, we looked at the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her hair and how all the religious leaders judged her. They viewed her as sinful and wanted nothing to do with her, but Jesus wasn't like that. *You may have also looked at the widow of Nain and how Jesus shared his heart towards her.*

Part 1

Today, we are going to look at Martha and Mary, who were sisters and followers of Jesus. You may have heard of them. They are mentioned more than once and are included in some of the really well-known things that happened in the Bible. This is the first story we have of them. When they say the word 'Lord', they are talking about Jesus:

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42

Discussion Questions

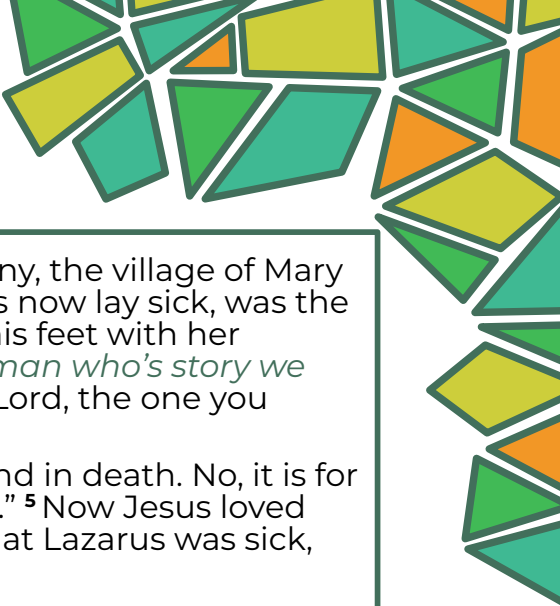
- ▶ What do you think of Martha and Mary?
- ▶ Who do you relate to more in the story?
- ▶ What do you think about what Jesus says?

Craft Time

Part 2

We are going to look at a bit more of the story now.

Has anyone heard of Lazarus? This is a quite a well-known story as it is mentioned across different parts of the New Testament, the second half of the Bible. Lazarus was a man that had died and was dead for 4 days and Jesus brought him back to life. Well, what is less well-known is that Martha and Mary were Lazarus' sisters. This story is in the book of John, which is found after the book of Luke that we just read from:



Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) *(Mention John suggests that Mary is the same woman whose story we looked at last week.)* ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,

John 11:1-6

Discussion Questions

- ▶ What does this Bible section say about Jesus?
- ▶ How did Jesus feel about Martha and Mary?
- ▶ What do you think happens next?

Craft Time

Part 3

Continuing on with the story of Martha and Mary. We are going to read the next section of the Bible:

When Jesus arrived to the place where Martha and Mary lived, he found that Lazarus had been dead for 4 days.

⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

John 11:17-27





Discussion Questions

- ▶ **What do you think about what Martha says here?**
(Mention about Martha's faith in Jesus and her comment about how he would have healed Lazarus if he had been there).
- ▶ **What do you think of Jesus' claim?** *(That He is the Messiah)*

Craft Time

Part 4

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him...

she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Luke 11:28-37

Discussion Questions

- ▶ **Do you relate to Martha and Mary's questions?**
- ▶ **Have you ever asked God, or anyone else, similar questions?**
- ▶ **What do you think of Jesus after reading this?**
(Jesus wept. He weeps when she weeps. He recognises her pain and shares with her in it.)

Craft Time

Part 5

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days."

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

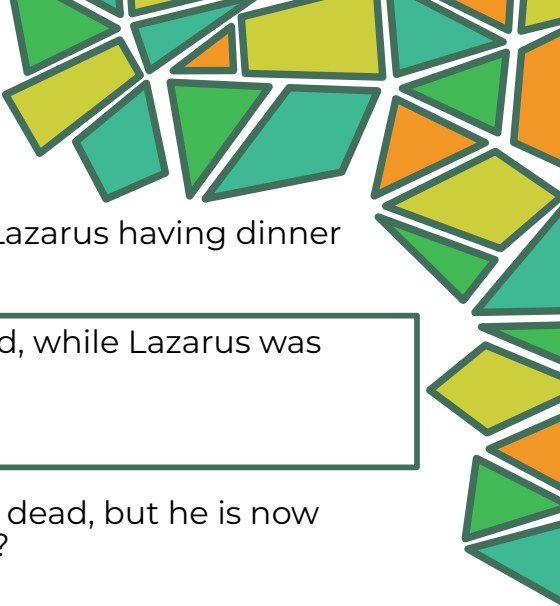
⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

John 11:38-44





Later on in the book in the Bible, we see this scene of Lazarus having dinner with Jesus:

² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

John 12:2

Imagine eating dinner with a man who was previously dead, but he is now just casually reclining at the table, how mind blowing!?

Discussion Questions

- ▶ How do you think Mary and Martha felt about what had happened?
- ▶ How did Jesus treat the women?
- ▶ What do you think of Jesus now?

Craft Time

Summary

Jesus is moved by our suffering. We can see this from him weeping when others wept. But Jesus doesn't just understand or is moved by our struggles, he is also more than just a man. He rose Lazarus from the dead! We will find out more of what that means for us in the weeks to come. If you have any questions about that, feel free to ask.

