

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

Week 6: This week, Jesus visits the home of two sisters, Martha and Mary. We hear what Jesus thinks about listening.

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:39-42

...sat at the
Lord's feet
and
listened...

Choose the reflective questions that suit your family:

Ages 3-6
Mary wants to visit with Jesus, too. She sits at his feet and listens to his words. We wonder what his voice sounds like. We wonder how good it feels to sit and listen to him speak. How can we do this, too?

Ages 9-12
Why does Jesus call Martha twice? People say our name once, sharply, when they are angry. Likely Jesus is not angry. He needs to call Martha's attention that is distracted by many things. How does he call our attention? What could we do this week to sit and listen to his voice?

Ages 5-9
Martha's many tasks are service. Disciples serve. How do disciples know how to serve? There are so many things to do. Like Mary, they first sit and listen. Listening to God focuses us. Is it too late for Martha? If Mary chooses the better part, can Martha choose it, too? Is there room at Jesus' feet for more disciples?

Teenagers
Like Martha, we multitask. Is Jesus saying this is a bad thing? We notice that he says Martha is WORRIED and distracted by her many tasks. Worry and anxiety help no one, and yet many of us suffer from these things. This week we can experiment by sitting and listening to the Word. Does it help put worry and anxiety aside?

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other's answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.

Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

