

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



PUTTING GOD FIRST

Luke 10:38-42 Jesus visits Martha and Mary

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details.

Each child will need:

- 🕒 A length of string or a shoelace or a piece of ribbon - about 20-30cm long

Start It

Play a multiple-choice quiz using the emoji feature of Zoom. For each question there are three possible answers, each represented by an emoji: clapping hands, thumbs up or hearts. As you say each multiple-choice answer, mime the emoji (clap your hands, give a thumbs up, make a heart with your hands or tap over your heart). Depending on the age of the children you may need to give the answers more than once. Give the children five seconds to decide on the correct answer and emoji - and to display their answer when you say 'Go!'

TIP

The emojis will only display for ten seconds on-screen, so everyone needs to wait until you say 'Go!' before they display.

1. Who was the first (and only) men's national team to win the FIFA World Cup five times?
*Clapping hands for Germany, Thumbs up for **Brazil** or Heart for Italy*
2. Who was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean?
*Clapping hands for **Amelia Earhart**, Thumbs up for Maria Wright, or Heart for Greta Thunberg*
3. What was the title of the first Harry Potter book: Harry Potter and the...?
*Clapping hands for 'Chamber of Secrets', Thumbs up for 'Goblet of Fire, Heart for **'Philosopher's Stone'***
4. Who was the first woman to be named in the Bible?
*Clapping hands for Mary, Thumbs up for **Eve**, Heart for Sarah.*
5. What was the title of the first Pixar movie?
*Clapping hands for 'Monsters Inc', Thumbs up for 'Up', or Heart for **'Toy Story'***
6. Which was the first disease to be completely eradicated?
*Clapping hands for **Smallpox**, Thumbs up for the Flu, Heart for Measles*
7. In which year did the First World War start?
*Clapping hands for **1914**, Thumbs up for 1944, Heart for 1984*
8. What was the name of the first video game machine that Nintendo brought out?
*Clapping hands for the Wii, Thumbs up for the **Nintendo Entertainment System**, Heart for the GameCube*
9. What kind of animal was the first to orbit the Earth in space?
*Clapping hands for monkey, Thumbs up for rabbit, Heart for **dog***
10. 'I am the Lord your God - you shall have no other gods before me' is the first what?
*Clapping hands for Law, Thumbs up for Rule, Heart for **Commandment***

- **Say:** Over the last couple of weeks we have been thinking about the changes that have happened in our lives recently. As we return to our schools, clubs and other activities – perhaps in ways that feel very different from what we are used to – how do we make sure that we put God first in everything we're doing?

Sing It

The lyrics say, 'I'm gonna put God first before anything else in my life.' How easy do you find that to do?

'Put God first' by Allstars Kids Club

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2Oe6R6AFeQ>

Tell It

- **Say:** What's important to you? Use the whiteboard function of Zoom to ask the children to draw or write things that are important to them. Save the sheet so you can use it later in the Pray It section.

Read the story about Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42.

- **Say:** It's clear that both Martha and Mary thought that Jesus was important to them; they just had different ways of showing it. Martha showed Jesus that he was important by making sure that he and the disciples were properly looked after. Mary showed Jesus that he was important by sitting at his feet. Whether we're aware of it or not, all of us make it pretty obvious what we think is most important when we give that person or thing our time and attention.

Ask: If you are honest, who or what do you give most of your time and attention to?

- **Say:** Jesus made it clear that Mary's choice was better. Even though Martha thought Jesus was important and probably was desperate to listen to what he had to say, she chose to be in a different room – probably the kitchen – where there were lots of distractions – food to make, other noises to ignore, people passing by – to properly focus on Jesus.
- **Say:** Today we don't have the luxury of having Jesus physically present in the room with us, but each of us probably finds that there are certain places where we feel closer to him and find it easier to hear him – perhaps outside in nature, or in a children's worship meeting, or when you are playing with your friends or maybe when you're talking to your parents.
- **Say:** Think back to those times when you have felt closest to Jesus or have felt like he has spoken to you. Where were you, and what were you doing?

Discuss some of the places where you might find it easier to focus on Jesus. Try to come up with as diverse a list as you can.

Action It

Ask the children to take the piece of string they brought with them to the session and hold it in their hands.

- **Say:** What changes need to happen in your life to put Jesus first? What things do you sometimes treat as more important than him by the time and attention you give them? What things – even if they are good things – distract you from putting Jesus first in your life?

Ask them to tie a simple knot in the string for each thing they think of.

Finally ask them if they will commit to trying to put Jesus first. If they will, ask them to put the string around their wrist (or ankle) and tie a double knot in it. Ensure they leave enough space that the string hangs loosely so as not to cause them any harm. Encourage them to say a quick prayer or a quick 'thank you' to Jesus whenever they notice the string around their wrist or ankle.

Pray It

Share screen: Show the whiteboard screen with the drawings and words of things the children said were important to them on it.

Ask the children to look at the screen and think about how Jesus fits into their lives with all these distractions. Emphasise that these things are not bad - and that many are very good - but that we still have a choice as to how much time and attention we give them in the day.

Allocate each person a section of the screen and say that together you are going to use the paintbrush feature to cover over the things you've drawn and written, to create a new piece of art that focuses on Jesus. They can write any words or draw any images that remind them of Jesus, but you shouldn't see any of the things that were originally on the slide. You could play a worship song quietly in the background as you create.

When you've finished, fade the song and end the time with a short prayer that Jesus would help you all put him first in your lives starting now.

Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.