

Mary and Martha's lesson

**Bible verses:**

Luke 10:38-42

Mary and Martha

**Aim:**

To see different reactions to Jesus

**Today's fruit:**

Patience



In today's session we join sisters Mary and Martha as they spend time with Jesus.

Martha was trying to do the right thing. A very important visitor was coming to the house and she wanted everything to be perfect. The only problem was, she forgot to spend time with the special visitor when they arrived. We'll discover Martha's impatient side and think about how we can be more patient. We'll also learn from Jesus that spending time worshipping him is essential.

While Martha lacks patience, it seems that Mary has plenty. Yet Jesus is patient with Martha too.

Each child will need:

- Lollypop sticks, card, glue, scissors and pens/pencils plus other optional craft material to make stick puppets, eg wool, pipe cleaners, fabric, googly eyes ...
- *Mary and Martha Drama* handout (optional)
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Patience*

**Start it**

Watch the clip together. Ask the children to think about how it makes them feel as they watch it.

Video

Zootopia DMV (Flash) by Disney Movies (1:55)

Ask:

- How did you feel as you were watching the clip?
- Did you feel frustrated? If so, why?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being no patience at all and 10 being extremely patient, how would you score yourself? Explain your answer.



Sing it

Display the *Patience* sign.

Say:

In today's story there are lots of examples of people being patient and impatient.

Ask:

What does it mean when we are impatient?

Say:

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit that God can grow in each one of us. Our song reminds us to have patience with others as they, in turn, have patience with us.

Song

'*Patience*' (*Herbert the snail with lyrics*) by Wesley's Wuppets (2:40)



Tell it

Say:

In our story today Jesus came to visit sisters, Mary and Martha. They both reacted very differently to his visit. Let's watch the clip to see what happened.



Video

Jesus visits Mary and Martha slapstick theatre by Saddleback Kids (1:17)

Say:

Mary and Martha's story is found in Luke's Gospel.

Read:

'While Jesus and his followers were travelling, Jesus went into a town. A woman named Martha let Jesus stay at her house.'

(Luke 10:38 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How does your family prepare when someone comes to visit?
- What about if Jesus was coming to visit your house?

Say:

Martha was excited to see Jesus and wanted everything to be perfect. She had probably spent ages cleaning the house and was busily preparing a meal for Jesus and his disciples.

Read:

'Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him teach. Martha became angry because she had so much work to do. She went in and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work? Tell her to help me!"'

(Luke 10:39-40 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Put yourself in Martha's position. Do you understand why she was so annoyed with her sister? Explain your answer.
- What do you think Martha wanted Jesus to say to Mary?
- What did he say instead?

Read:

'But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are getting worried and upset about too many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will never be taken away from her."'

(Luke 10:41-42 *ICB*)

Say:

Martha was upset because she was working hard to make everything perfect for Jesus. She wanted him to relax in a clean house with wonderful food. The aim was to make Jesus feel like a special guest. Mary wanted to make Jesus feel like a special guest in a different way.

Ask:

How did Mary make Jesus feel like a special guest in their house?

Say:

Mary spent time sitting at the feet of Jesus and listened to everything he had to say. Although Martha was doing 'good' things for Jesus, she was missing spending time with him. She also showed her impatience as she became frustrated with her sister.

Ask:

What does Mary teach us about the importance of taking time to worship Jesus rather than always trying to please him by doing things?

Say:

Serving Jesus in our church and community is very important, but we must remember that the most important thing is loving and worshipping him. In this story, worship is about slowing down and listening to Jesus.

Action it

Ask the children to create lollypop stick puppets to help retell the story of Mary and Martha. Give the children time to make their puppets either individually or in small groups. They will need: Mary, Martha and Jesus puppets. They may also wish to do a narrator and add in other people.

The children can then rehearse their retellings and share them with the rest of the group. Encourage the children to emphasise the different ways that Mary and Martha responded to Jesus. They may wish to use the *Mary and Martha Drama* handout to help them.

Pray it

Say:

To bring the session to a close, invite the children to share in a time of sung worship. This is their moment to spend time focusing on Jesus. A selection of songs are shown below to choose from.

Song options

'Here I am to worship' by Tim Highes Kid's Praise! lyric video performed by Maranatha! Music (4:22)

'Heart of worship' by Matt Redman performed by HEIRS COG Sasa Children's Ministry (3:35)

Say:

Dear Jesus,

Help us to remember that worshipping and loving you is the most important thing in our lives. You have lots of ways that you want us to care for the people you have created, but let us always remember that you are at the centre of it all.

Amen.

Say:

To bring this month's *Explore It* sessions to a close we are going to share our memory verse. Remember, whether it's trying to share the goodness of God, bring peace to a stormy situation, show kindness to others or remain patient, God can always make the impossible, possible.

Memory verse

'Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for human beings, but not for God; everything is possible for God.'"

(Mark 10:27 GNB)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Mary and Martha's lesson

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Luke 10:38-42
Mary and Martha



Aim:
To see different reactions to Jesus



Today's fruit:
Patience



Worship

Take a moment every day this week to worship. You could sing a song, read a psalm, write a poem or just sit in a quiet space. Spend time with Jesus just like Mary did.



Discover

In our session this week we watched a clip from the film *Zootropolis*. Watch the film with the people at home. Or if that's not possible, watch a clip online of the character Flash at the DMV.

What does this film teach us about being patient with each other?



Song for the week

'Patience' (Herbert the snail with lyrics)
by Wesley's Wuppets



Memory verse

'Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for human beings, but not for God; everything is possible for God."'

(Mark 10:27 GNB)

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Children
& Youth

A lesson for a teacher of the law



Bible verses:
Luke 10:38-42



Aim:
To see two sisters
meet Jesus



Today's fruit:
Patience



Memory verse

'Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for human beings, but not for God; everything is possible for God."'

(Mark 10:27 *GNB*)



Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Aji and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Start it

When a friend comes to your house, how do you (or someone at home) get ready for their visit? What do you do when your friend arrives?

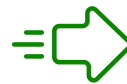


Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 10:38-42.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Describe your brothers or sisters.
- Do you prefer sitting quietly or doing jobs?
- Have you ever helped cook a meal?
- If Jesus stayed at your house, what might you ask him?
- What is Jesus' favourite meal?



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Mime kitchen tasks (as called out by the leader)
- Sit still for as long as you can - like Mary
- Stand on one leg for as long as you can - it may hurt, but can you be patient?
- Play *Pass the parcel* - a good waiting game