

CITY SG – February 19th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: I Will Be Here (Mary and Martha) • *Luke 10:38-42*

Today's Bottom Line: Take time to show others they are important.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Do to others as you want them to do to you.* Luke 6:31 (NirV)

1. Busy Martha, Listen Mary

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Review Questions" Activity Page and floor tape

What You Do:

- Tape a start line and a finish line on the floor of your area, as far apart as possible.
- Instruct the kids to stand along the start line.
- When you say, "Busy Martha," instruct the kids to act busy or dance towards the finish line. (No running!)
- When you say, "Listen Mary," instruct the kids to freeze immediately.
- If kids are still moving when you call, "Listen Mary," direct them to go back to the start line.
- When a kid reaches the finish line, ask them a review question.
- Continue playing until everyone makes it across the finish line and answers a review question.

What You Say:

"Martha was working hard, and that's a good thing! But she was working so hard that she was missing out on spending time with Jesus. Jesus gently told Martha that what Mary was doing was better. When we focus and **take time to show others they are important**, we're not only respecting them, we are also respecting God because everyone is made in the image of God.

"It's also important to spend time with God because God loves you so much, and spending time with God grows our faith. What are some ways you can slow down and spend time with God? (*Pause for responses—pray and talk to God throughout the day, read Bible before going to bed, write a journal, avoid distractions, ask a friend to hold you accountable, etc.*) Those are some great ideas to help you take time for God this week."

2. Balance is Good

Application Activity

What You Need: "Mary and Martha" Activity Page (one per child), markers, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Mary and Martha" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers and pens.
- Ask: "Does anyone know what this is?" (*a scale*)
- Ask: "What would happen if I put too much weight on one side of the scale?" (*It would tip*)

- Say: “This is a reminder that, just like in the story of Mary and Martha, it is important to do things that have to get done, and it’s also important to spend time with our loved ones...especially God!”
- Encourage the kids to list three things they need to do on the left side (*study, homework, chores, etc.*) and 3 ways to spend time with God (*read your Bible, pray, go to church, etc.*) on the right.
- **NON READER OPTION:** If your kids are younger and can’t write encourage them to draw things they can do and draw ways they can spend time with God.
- Color the rest of the page.
- Have kids share their answers.

What You Say:

“With so many things to do, sometimes it’s difficult to decide how you should spend your time. It’s important to learn how to balance what you do. Having fun is a good thing, but what if you spend too much time having fun and you forget to study for your test? Doing well in school is important, but what if you studied all the time and you didn’t get enough sleep at night or never talked to your family and friends?”

This sheet is a reminder that we need to balance the important things in our life. Take it home and use it to remind you that besides doing your homework and chores, you should also spend time with God.”

3. Toss Across

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, ball

What You Do:

- **Older kids:** Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and find Luke 6:31 using the navigation tips below.
- **OR** just review the verse with the kids using the hand motions you learned in Large Group. “*Do to others as you want them to do to you.*” Luke 6:31

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “Luke” in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find “Luke,” lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find “Luke.” Help the kids find the page. When they find “Luke,” explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 31 in chapter 6.

- Recite the verse together a few times.
- Have the kids sit in a circle and give one child the ball.
- Ask that child to say the first word of the verse then throw the ball across to another child who says the second word.
- Continue tossing the ball to each other until you have finished the verse.
- Play a few times and, if possible, time how long it takes the group to complete the verse.
- Try to get quicker each time.

What You Say:

“Jesus was telling us that what we say and do for others should match what we want others to say and do for us. And if we do that—what will we SEE? *(Pause for responses—positive changes in how others treat us, people being drawn to God, people feeling loved, etc.)*”

“When we treat others well, they feel valued and important. What are some ways you can show others they’re important? *(Pause for responses—include them in what you’re doing, welcome them, get to know them, stand up for them, etc.)* There are so many ways to **[Bottom Line] take time to show others they are important.** Let’s practice this verse this week by what we say and do.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask kids to name some of the people they know—well or not well—who are part of their daily lives such as: parents, friends, teammates, mailman, janitor at school, neighbors, the cashier at the store, etc.
- After discussion, close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“God put a lot of people in our lives. One way to show respect to God is to pray for the people God made. This week, spend some time praying for the people around you. People are important to God, and that’s why people should be important to us. **[Bottom Line] Take time to show others they are important.** Let’s pray.

“God, You love us all so much! People are important to You! Help us show others they’re important by what we say and do. Please open our eyes to see opportunities to show people respect because we know when we respect the people You made, we respect You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show the adults how important they are by sharing one thing they appreciate about them.