

Key Scripture

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." ⁴¹But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! ⁴²There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 NLT

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- When you have guests over which one are you: a do-er, or a be-er? Would you rather work to make sure everything is ready/perfect or just spend time even if things aren't as planned/polished?
- Do you ever get frustrated that no one seems to care as much as you about something you think is really important?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Pastor Lane said he normally doesn't like playing the what if game because of where it takes us mentally, but there are a few what if's that we should grapple with. What are a few what if's that would be beneficial for us to think about?
- In this passage, Martha was doing something good, but Jesus said Mary was doing something better. How do we know if we are missing out on the better because we are distracted by the good?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Do more closely identify with Mary or Martha? How can you become more balanced so that you don't have to sacrifice your focus on Jesus or you need to get stuff done?
- How do we make sure that we don't just have proximity to Jesus like the religious leaders of His day, but have a real relationship with Him like his disciples?
- What is the difference between hearing and listening? How do we know if we are really listening to Jesus and not just hearing teaching about Jesus? What does that look like in our lives?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank you for giving us the example of Mary and Martha to help challenge us not to settle for our get distracted by the good when you have something better for us. Help us to keep you in the center of our lives as we determine to have a relationship with You not just proximity to You. Amen

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Make the decision to keep Jesus in the center of your life and do it. Plan it, prioritize it, calendar it... don't just talk about doing it, do it!
- Start or add one mini-habit this week that focuses on your spiritual health.
- Start identifying good things that you are doing this week that are distracting you from the best things; develop a strategy to combat that.