

Kingdom Vision: Distracted
Growth Group Discussion
Luke 10:38-42

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God's word.
- When you host guests, do you default to serving (i.e., preparing food, keeping everything just so), or to sitting and being with your guests? How stressful is the experience of hosting for you?

1. READ Luke 10:38-42.

- Mary is often viewed as the protagonist in this story. But what do you notice that is commendable about Martha here?
- In your relationship with Jesus, do you tend to identify more with Martha, or Mary? In other words, do you tend to "do for him" more, or "sit at his feet?"
- In v. 40, what kind of response does Martha expect from Jesus?
- On Sunday, Andy showed us that being "distracted" (v. 40) means, being "pulled away from" Jesus. What things—especially good things—pull you away from simply being *with* Jesus?
- What is significant about the fact that Jesus, a Jewish man, is interacting with Mary, a woman, as teacher to disciple? What does this say about Jesus and the Christian faith?
- We learned on Sunday that Luke's placement of this story was strategic. Why might Luke have placed this story right after the Parable of the Good Samaritan, even if the interchange with Mary and Martha did not happen right after that teaching?

2. Our church's new vision statement begins as follows: *We will make disciples of Jesus in the communities where we work and live, who will make disciples, locally and internationally. To do so, we will... in community with each other, follow Jesus by learning from him...*

- We learned on Sunday that sitting at someone's feet is to assume the posture of a learner. In Mary's day, learning from Jesus meant to literally sit at his feet and listen. The Twelve Apostles got to travel with Jesus, eat with him, and dialogue with him. What does it look like in our day, 2000 years later, to learn from Jesus?
- In your own relationship with Jesus, what have been the most meaningful practices you have experienced in learning from Jesus?
- Jesus' teaching was dialogical in style—in other words, it involved back and forth with his students. How can our learning from him be dialogical in our day?
- What are some practices we can do together, as a growth group, or as a larger church, to pursue this learning from Jesus?

3. READ Matthew 11:28-30.

- In these verses, Jesus specifically gives us the invitation to come and learn from him. What light do these verses shed on this concept?
- In recent memory, what are some of the things that Jesus has shown you or taught you as you have spent time with him?
- Why is it vital that we see discipleship as a *lifelong journey* of learning from Jesus?
- What threatens to distract you from Jesus this week? What can you do to be intentional about guarding your time with him? How can our group support that intention?

PRAYER:

- Pray with regard to learning from Jesus. Ask him what he wants to show you this week.
- Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.