

## Good News, Great Joy, All People

“What disciples look like”

Luke 10:38-42

Growth Group Discussion Guide

### Opening Question:

- ❖ *(Leaders: the goal of these introductory questions is to help break the ice—they give everyone the chance to “loosen their tongue” by answering a safe, non-threatening question, that also begins orienting to the topic at hand).*
- ❖ When you invite a special guest to your home, what is one thing you do to try to make them feel welcomed?
- ❖ Begin your time together with a moment of silence, then pray and ask for God’s Spirit to shape us through his word.

### 1. Read Luke 10:38-42, and discuss the following.

- *Note: the Mary in this story is Mary of Bethany. She and Martha are described elsewhere in the Gospels only in John 11-12. She is not to be confused either with Mary Magdalene or with the woman from last week’s story in ch. 7.*
- What can you gather about Martha’s disposition from these verses?
- What can you gather about Mary?
- Do you identify more with Mary, with Martha, or with neither? Why?
- Some observers have commented that Mary and Martha simply have different, innate personalities, and that Martha is more active while Mary is more contemplative. What do you make of this idea? What would you say about its accuracy in light of Jesus’ remarks here?
- In vv. 41-42, Jesus implies that “indeed only one” thing is needed. What do you think he is talking about? What is the one thing?
- How often does your life resemble Martha’s frenzied, busy activity here? Is it hard for you to stop the activity, or easy?
- How does our busyness reveal what is at the center of our lives?
- What are some good things which distract you from the best thing?
- On Sunday we saw that **being a disciple means sitting at the feet of Jesus, enjoying him**. Discuss:
  - What does this statement mean, given that we don’t actually have Jesus present in the flesh to sit at his feet?
  - Talk about the ways that you have found to cultivate this friendship with Jesus.
  - Do you feel that your life rhythms, as they pertain to this idea, are currently healthy, or do they need to be modified?

**2. Pastor Josh said that we can also see a second aspect of discipleship in the fact that Jesus treats Mary, a woman, as a full-fledged disciple.**

- What do you remember about the place of women in ancient Jewish culture? Would they ever be allowed to sit at the feet of a rabbi and learn with the men?
- What do you know about Jesus' interactions with women in other instances?
- What is striking about Jesus' treatment of Mary in this story, with respect to her gender and the society's norms based on that label?
- Based on these observations, Josh concluded that **being a disciple of Jesus is open to anyone who will sit at his feet.**
- In what way does this invitation from Jesus re-define our categories and priorities?
  - How does it humble us?
  - How does it lift us up?
- To what degree would you say that your friendship with Jesus is the defining center of your life? If that's not the case, what would you honestly say occupies that place currently?

**3. Lastly, we see here that being a disciple means being "all in" with Jesus.**

- This whole section should be read in light of Luke 9:51 and 57-62. Read these verses together, then discuss. How do they inform the way we understand today's passage and its message for our lives?
- Is there anything you haven't already shared about, which is keeping you from being "all in" with Jesus?

**Prayer:**

- Take a moment to share, and pray for any other needs that exist among your group members.