

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 11
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Even on a sultry summer day, the wind of the Spirit hovers — almost imperceptibly. Our lives rarely accommodate a slower pace for the summer. Yet, we are invited to notice, again, the priorities that drive us. We are invited to stop, however briefly, the manic activity and consider options Jesus offers us.

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel

Of course, the dishes must be washed and the bills paid, but will we take a deep breath and just ‘BE’? The static of distractions drowns out the music of the cosmos. Don’t just DO something; sit here, Jesus invites.

Theme: Choosing our priorities

Before Class: You will need copies of the Bible for the children.

Beginning: Tell the children to be listening for choices in the story for today. Who makes what choice and why?

Opening Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for trusting us so much that you give us choices. Help us to make choices that serve you and the world around us. Amen.

The Story: Luke 10: 38-42 Invite three children to read the parts of the narrator, Martha, and Jesus. You will find a script at the end of this lesson.

Questions:

I wonder what Martha thought was the important thing to do with Jesus in their house? (Be a generous host by fixing a really nice meal for Jesus and making sure everything as perfect for his visit.)

I wonder what Mary thought was the important thing to do? (Be a gracious hostess to Jesus by listening to him and learning what he had to teach her.)

I wonder what Jesus thought was the more important task? (Listening to what he had to teach.)

Do you think Jesus thought the housework was a waste of time? (Probably not.)

I wonder what Jesus was trying to teach them about choosing priorities? (A fancy dinner was not what Jesus had come for — but to be with these two women who were very good friends of Jesus.)

Option: Invite the children to imagine different endings for the story.

How could Martha still have seen that they had a nice dinner, which was important to her, and still have had time to hear what Jesus had to say?

How could Mary have made her sister feel less worried about the dinner? (Note, they probably had servants who would have prepared and served the dinner.)

Women were not considered equal to men in Jesus' time. What if Jesus was telling Mary that her discipleship and learning was just as important as a man's? Could that have been why Mary was so interested in what Jesus was saying?

Getting Closure: Most of us do not have servants. I wonder how we could act like Mary in our own lives? (A younger sibling who needs someone to play with? An older sibling who needs someone to help with a homework project? A grandparent who wants to tell one of his/her stories, again? Doing our very best in school to learn all that we can learn?)

I wonder how could we help the person who is "Martha" in our homes? (Are there chores we could offer to do to help? One night a week maybe the family simply heats up leftovers so the person who cooks would have more time with the family.)

I wonder what this story has said to you about setting priorities? How do we balance our everyday lives and the tasks that we have to do as well as spend time with Jesus?

Closing Prayer: Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to *you*, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly *yours*, utterly dedicated to *you*; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to *your* glory and the welfare of *your* people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

-A Prayer of Self-Dedication (Adapted from The Book of Common Prayer, page 832)

Luke 10:38-42

Narrator: Now as Jesus and the disciples went on their way, they entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked,

Martha: 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.'

Narrator: ⁴¹But the Lord answered her,

Jesus: 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things;⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

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