The Family Jesus Loved

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

Ages 6–10 | Video about 12 minutes | Lesson 35–40 minutes

Central truth

Jesus welcomes us to listen, trust him when we are afraid or sad, and show love through our actions.

Learning goals

Retell how each sibling responds to Jesus. Explain what Jesus does at the tomb. Choose one way to listen or care for someone this week.

Prepare

Gather a Bible, the video, pencils or crayons, and a student activity for each child. The story includes illness, death and grief. Give children the option to pass on personal questions.

Welcome and watch · 15 minutes

Ask what it feels like when someone listens closely. While watching, look for one moment of listening, one of trust, and one of love.

Talk together · 8 minutes

1. What does Mary choose when Jesus visits?
2. What does Martha tell Jesus she believes?
3. What does Jesus do when he sees Mary and the others grieving?
4. What happens when Jesus calls Lazarus?
5. How does Mary show her love at the meal?

Read and respond · 10 minutes

Read John 11:25–27 aloud. Ask who Martha says Jesus is. Choose Draw & Tell or Read & Write. Invite volunteers to explain one answer.

Pray and choose · 3 minutes

Jesus, thank you for listening to us and staying close when we are sad. Help us listen to you, trust you, and love the people around us. Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, pray for us. Amen.

Listening, trusting, and loving

Answer notes and ways to continue the lesson

Listen for understanding

Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens. Martha says she believes Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus weeps with those who mourn. He calls Lazarus out of the tomb. At the meal, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with perfume and wipes them with her hair.

Connect listening with service

In Luke 10:38–42, Martha welcomes Jesus and Mary listens to him. Help children see the good in serving and the importance of pausing to listen. In John 12:2, Martha serves again at the meal.

Talk about grief with care

Jesus really weeps in John 11:35. Sadness and faith can belong together. Allow children to talk about the characters without sharing their own losses. Explain that Lazarus returning to earthly life is a sign pointing to Jesus' power over death and the Christian hope of resurrection.

Student activity answers

Draw & Tell: Accept recognizable story details and practical acts of care.
Read & Write: Sequence answers from top to bottom are 4, 2, 1, 3. Martha calls Jesus the Messiah and Son of God. Jesus shares the sorrow of those who are grieving. Accept practical examples of listening, praying, or offering help.

Take home

Read Luke 10:38–42 together. Give each person a turn to speak while the others listen. With a trusted adult, choose a simple act of care such as making a card, setting the table, or praying for someone who is sad.

Scripture for further study

Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

Jesus raises Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

Mary anoints Jesus (John 12:1-8)

Jesus cares for his friends

Draw your answers. Then tell someone about each picture.

Name _____

1. Draw a moment when Jesus cared for his friends.

Tell who is in your picture and what Jesus is doing.

2. Draw one way you can care for someone this week.

Tell someone what you will do and who can help you.

Pray: Jesus, help me listen and care for others. Amen.

Trusting Jesus in Bethany

Write short answers or tell them to an adult.

Name _____

1. Put these events in order. Write 1, 2, 3, or 4.

___ Mary anoints Jesus' feet at the meal.

___ Martha tells Jesus she believes he is the Son of God.

___ Mary listens at Jesus' feet when he visits.

___ Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb.

2. Read John 11:25–27. Who does Martha say Jesus is?

3. Jesus weeps with his friends. What does that show about how he cares for them?

4. What is one way you could listen to or help someone this week?

Pray: Jesus, help me trust you and love others. Amen.