



St. Paul Lutheran YOUTH Bible Study

Martha and Mary

Read Luke 10:38-42

St. Ignatius was a priest in Spain in the early-mid 1500s. He became well known for his writing and leadership in spirituality. One of his “techniques” in Bible study was to use one’s imagination while engaging with Scripture. He suggested reading not to “understand” but instead to experience. He suggested putting yourself in the story, become a participant. In this story, we might wonder what the house looked like, what the cooking smells were, who else was in the room. Use the following questions to prompt your thinking. Don’t worry about being right or wrong. Let your imagination go! Consider drawing or writing a description of what you imagine. (If you want to read more about St. Ignatius and his style of spirituality, [click here.](#))

- What do I see and hear? What do I smell, taste, or touch?
- Who are the characters and what's going on with them?
- If I were in this movie, what role would I play?
- If I were Jesus in this story, what would I be thinking, feeling, saying?

Bethany, the name of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus’s town, meant “house of misery.” It was probably a residence for people who were sick, poor, and outcasts. Because of its location on the outskirts of Jerusalem, Bethany was a place many people traveled through on the way to and from the temple. Look at a Bible map and locate Jerusalem and Bethany. Imagine what this “house of misery” might have looked, sounded, smelled, felt, and tasted like.

Questions for Conversation:

- What neighborhood or city from today might compare to Bethany? Describe what that place is like. Who lives there?
- How did Mary, Martha, and Lazarus’s family seem pretty normal? How was their family important to Jesus’ ministry?
- Do you know any ordinary people who have been part of extraordinary events? What happened?

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, we often feel like there are so many expectations for us to meet, yet we fall short of so much. Help us to spend time with you, to serve as we can, and to know that your grace and love will carry us through. Amen.