

## READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is

### Mary and Martha

from Luke 10:38-42

#### Jesus calls us to love one another.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Mary
- Martha
- Jesus
- Cleaning
- Cooking
- Learning

In the ancient world, hospitality was very important. If someone came to your house to visit — even uninvited — they had to be fed and properly celebrated as a guest. It was the women's job to do all of the cooking and cleaning and planning for the guest.

#### Read the whole story together in the Bible!

*Spark Story Bible* pages 366-371

*Spark Bible* page 1146

#### Family Prayer

Thank you, God, for everyone who does the hard work of running a household — the cooking and cleaning, the planning, and the making of a home. Help us make time for everyone in our family to learn from you. AMEN.

## TALK ABOUT IT

### Family Conversations

- 1 When do you enjoy being busy? When would you prefer to sit back and learn?
- 2 What things has Jesus taught you lately?
- 3 When are you like Martha? When are you like Mary?
- 4 Give everyone in your family a Bible and send them to a different part of the house. Set a timer for ten minutes. At the end of ten minutes, everyone bring something to the table that they learned from reading about Jesus or looking at pictures of Jesus. Discuss these important things over cookies or a treat!

### Eye Spark

When you see a mess in your house, remember this story of Mary and Martha — while it's good to pick up after yourself, a perfectly clean and organized house isn't always the most important thing to worry about!

### Ear Spark

When you hear someone read a story about Jesus (at home, during worship, or elsewhere), remember to sit down like Mary and listen!

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Together, clean the house, make something yummy to eat, and then sit down for some stories about Jesus! Play fun music and share the load so the cleaning and food preparation aren't too much for any one person. Let everyone who helped (and even those who didn't!) pick a story about Jesus to read, watch, or tell together.

### For younger kids

Bake some cookies with a parent and then invite someone over to share them. Jesus would love your hospitality!

### For older kids

Design a company or organization called "Mary & Martha, Inc." What service or product will you provide? Who will benefit from your organization? What kind of people will you hire or invite to be a part of things? Have fun designing some advertisements.

## TRY IT

### Art

Have each family member make and decorate a note card that says "Take Time for Jesus Today." Place the signs around the house where family members will see them during the day.

### Computer Lab

Invite another family over for a dinner. Use your computer to write up a menu for a special meal. If you have internet, as a family look up some new recipes to use. Make your guests feel special by showing interest in them and what they have to say.

### Creative Drama

Pretend you are Jesus. Gather everyone in the family before dinner and wash their feet. During dinner, share some bread and grape juice. Talk about what Jesus did to show love for others. How can we be more like Jesus?

### Video

In our crowded lives, listening can be hard. Have everyone in the family pick something they love to listen to — a piece of music, a poem, a rhyme, a story, an essay, a sound from nature — and take turns sharing these special sounds with each other.

### Bible Skills and Games

As a family, have a balancing contest:

1. Stand on one foot and bend your other knee, raising your foot behind you.
2. Repeat that position with your eyes closed.
3. Stand on one foot and lift the other leg straight out behind you.

Discuss how balancing felt to each of you.

Share ways that your family can stay spiritually balanced by praying together and caring for others.

### Cooking

Bring out your family's inner Mary and set aside your chores for an evening of fun. After dinner, forget the dirty dishes, laundry, and vacuuming. Instead, spend time together. Go for a walk, play a board game, or visit a park. End the day by praying together. (Don't leave the cleanup to just one person!)

### Music

Take turns talking about ways that you can tell that God loves you and share why God's love is so special to you. If you have them, get out the candles you were given at your baptism, light them, and sing "This Little Light of Mine" together.

### Science

Discuss how your family shares both physical and learned characteristics. Challenge each family member to find matches with other family members. For example one person could say, "My brown eyes match Dad's, I like to read like Nick does, and Mom and I both like the color purple."