



Part #1 – Make Time for What Matters Most

Small Group Discussion Guide on Luke 10:38-42

The sermon highlights the comparison and contrast between Martha’s distraction and Mary’s devotion which mirror the disciple’s journey of choosing the “one thing necessary” during the busyness of life. The sermon’s Big Idea, “**Life is Short so Don’t Just Live... Choose to Live with a Kingdom Purpose and Eternal Perspective,**” challenges us to deepen our walk with Christ, aligning with our church’s mission to teach believers to reflect the love of Christ and live out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

“Observing God’s Word”

Imagine a bustling kitchen during a family gathering, pots clanging, timers buzzing, and the air thick with the aroma of a meal in progress. Amid the chaos, one person pauses, sets aside the tasks, and sits quietly to listen to a wise elder’s stories. In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus’ visit to Martha and Mary’s home is like that gathering – urgent duties pull in one direction, but the call to pause at the Savior’s feet offers true nourishment. As you read, notice how Mary’s choice cuts through the noise, reminding us that in the whirlwind of life, God invites us to sit still and receive His eternal wisdom.

Let’s start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read Luke 10:38-42 (ESV) as a group, family, or an individual, letting God’s Word sink in. Picture the scene: Jesus entering the home, Martha serving diligently, and Mary sitting at His feet.

Core Questions

- What do you notice about Martha and Mary's words and actions in these verses? Why is this relevant?
- What are key words, phrases, or themes that grab your attention in this text?
- What is the main lesson that you learn about the character of God from Luke 10:38-42?

Section #2 – EXPLORE

“Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

Let's unpack Martha and Mary's decisions in these verses with questions that connect the sermon's insights to our lives. Discuss these as a group or reflect on them as an individual.

Quote – “Your priorities must be God first, God second, and God third, until your life is continually face to face with God.” – **Oswald Chambers**

- What does the quote from Oswald Chambers teach us today? Why is this an important lesson to remember?

Lesson #1 – Master the Pursuit of the Pause (Luke 10:38-39)

As they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching (Luke 10:38-39). The sermon highlights Mary's choice to pause and sit at Jesus' feet as a model of devotion especially during times of busyness or distractions in life.

- How does Mary's decision to prioritize time with Jesus encourage you in your own walk with God?
- Have you ever experienced a moment where pausing in God's presence brought renewal?
- In what ways does Luke 10:38-39 encourage you as a Christian today?

Lesson #2 – Don't Let the Urgent Eclipse the Eternal (Luke 10:40)

Verse 40 reveals that Martha was distracted with much serving. Frustrated and overwhelmed, she went up to Jesus and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me” (Luke 10:40). Martha's frustration reveals how distractions can lead to anxiety, frustration, and a clouded vision of what matters most, yet Jesus redirects her focus to what truly matters.

- What does this teach us about the power of prioritizing the eternal over the urgent?
- How can you avoid letting life's demands eclipse your time with Christ, even when serving Him?
- How does the quote from Charles E. Hummel apply to these verses?

Quote – “The greatest danger in life is permitting the urgent things to crowd out the important.”
– **Charles E. Hummel**

Lesson #3 – Distraction is the Enemy of Devotion (Luke 10:41-42)

But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from

her” (Luke 10:41-42). Jesus gently reminds Martha that only one thing is necessary: choosing to come into His presence with a heart of devotion.

- What does this reveal about the relationship between distraction and true devotion?
- How can we choose the “good portion” in our daily lives?

Section #3 – EMBRACE

“Applying God’s Word”

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you’ve learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Luke 10:38-42.

- **Identify Your Distractions:** Think of a person, place, or situation where busyness might be calling you to prioritize the urgent over the eternal. Write down one specific step you can take this week to pause and seek God’s presence.
- **Practice the Pause:** Like Mary, take time to examine your heart. Is there an area of your life where you need to turn from distractions and seek God’s renewal? Spend a moment in prayer, asking God to reveal and help you prioritize devotion.
- **Share God’s Word:** Jesus’ teaching sparked a choice for Mary. Commit to sharing this Bible verse, a testimony, or an encouraging word with someone this week. Discuss with the group how you can encourage each other to be bold in sharing God’s truth.
- **Memorize and Reflect:** Memorize the sermon’s memory verse, Psalm 46:10 (NLT): “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” Reflect on God’s heart and invite Him to guide, lead, and direct you as you find renewal in His presence. Share with the group how this verse challenges or inspires you.

Closing Challenge and Prayer

As a group, pray for one another to hear and respond to God’s call, just as Mary did. Encourage each member to take at least one of the action steps above and follow up next week to share how God worked through their obedience. Consider participating in a Sunday School class or inviting someone new to join your small group to continue growing in faith together.

