

# Bible Story 38: JESUS VISITS MARY AND MARTHA; RAISES LAZARUS; PERFUME POURED ON JESUS' FEET

SCRIPTURE:	Visits Mary and Martha:	Luke 10:38-42
	Raises Lazarus:	John 11:1-6, 11-15, 17-44
	Pans of Killing Jesus	John 11:45-53
	Perfume Poured on Jesus' Feet:	John 12:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: John 11:25

## BIBLE STORY:

Some very good friends of Jesus were Mary, her sister Martha and their brother Lazarus. They lived in Bethany, a town about two miles from Jerusalem.

One day Jesus visited their home. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to His teachings. However, Martha was very busy doing all the preparations for Jesus' visit. She was upset, because her sister Mary did not help her. So Martha went to Jesus and said, "**Are you not concerned that my sister has left all the work with me? Tell her to come and help me.**"

Jesus replied that she was very worried about the work in the house. However, Mary has chosen the best thing to do. (*Mary wanted to take advantage of His presence by sitting at His feet and listening to His teachings.*) Jesus told Martha that He would not always be with them.

Jesus returned to Jerusalem and went to the other side of the River Jordan, where John the Baptist had baptized people.

Time passed. One day Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that their brother Lazarus was very sick. When Jesus heard this, He delayed two days before going to them. Meanwhile Lazarus died. News came to Martha that Jesus finally arrived in Bethany. So she left her home and went to Jesus, but Mary stayed at home. Martha told Jesus that if He were present when Lazarus was sick, her brother would not have died.

Jesus said, "**I am the resurrection and I**

**am the life. Whoever believes in me will live in heaven, even though he dies on earth."**

Martha said that she believed He was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Then Mary and the others came to Jesus and they were crying. Jesus wept. Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus was placed four days ago. Jesus demanded that they remove the rock in front of the tomb. Then Jesus said, "**Come out, Lazarus!**" What happened? Lazarus came out of the tomb! Jesus resurrected Lazarus! This is to say that Lazarus was alive once again. The people removed the grave clothes, strips of cloth that were wrapped around Lazarus.

Because of this miracle, many people believed and put their faith in Jesus. However, the chief priests and Pharisees were upset that so many people were believing in Jesus and they began to make plans to kill Jesus.

Time passed and Jesus returned to Bethany. A special dinner was prepared for Jesus in His honor. Martha helped serve and Lazarus was at the table with Jesus. Mary took a jar full of expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet. With her hair, she wiped and dried His feet. The disciple Judas, who was to betray Jesus, was upset. He said that they could have sold that expensive perfume and with the money help poor people. Jesus knew that Judas was not worried about the poor, but about the money. Jesus replied, saying that Mary did this in preparation for His death.

## LIFE-LESSONS:

1. Lazarus, Martha and Mary were very good friends of Jesus. Jesus valued His friendship with them. It is important to have friends and to treat them well.
2. Martha was worried about making preparations for Jesus' visit and did not stop to hear Jesus' teachings. Guard time with Jesus. How? (Examples: go to church; study the teachings of Jesus; read the Bible; pray; sing praises to God...)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What did Martha and Mary do when Jesus visited their home?
2. What did Martha ask Jesus? What did Jesus tell Martha?
3. How can we take time to be with Jesus?
4. What are some things that try to prevent us from having time with Jesus?
5. What did Mary and Martha do when Lazarus became sick? What did Jesus do?
6. Jesus said, ***“I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me will live in heaven, even though he dies on earth.”*** What does that mean?
7. Martha said that she believed Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God? What does “believe” mean?
8. Who do you believe Jesus is?
9. How long was Lazarus in the tomb when Jesus arrived? What did Jesus do at Lazarus’ tomb? What happened?
10. Why were the chief priests and Pharisees upset? What plans did they make to do to Jesus?
11. What did Mary do at the dinner honoring Jesus?
12. What did Judas say about the expensive perfume? Why do you think Judas was upset?
13. What did Jesus say to Judas, explaining why it was important for Mary to pour the perfume on Him?
14. What are some things that we can do for Jesus? How?

**SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:**

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

**PRESENTATION:**

- Show some pictures of people enjoying being together. Ask: *“Why is it important to have friends?”* Ask for volunteers to name one of their friends and tell why that person is important to them.”
- Share that Jesus had three special friends: Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Immediately after telling the story, make applications of the lessons taken from the Bible story and apply to the lives of the listeners.

lowship and dinner. Examples:

- (1) **Two places:** 1<sup>st</sup> place eat main course; 2<sup>nd</sup> place eat dessert.
- (2) **Three places:** 1<sup>st</sup> place eat salad; 2<sup>nd</sup> place eat main course; 3<sup>rd</sup> place eat dessert.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

- Invite the pastor or counselor to come and share about how to deal with grieving over the loss of a loved one.

**MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE FUTURE:**

- Invite a lawyer or counselor to share ways people can make preparation for one’s death which will help loved ones deal with the legal details. Examples:

  - (1) Wills
  - (2) Power of Attorney
  - (3) Living Will (medical choices)
  - (4) Funeral / Burial Plans
  - (5) Central place to keep important documents (such as a fireproof safe or a safe deposit box in a bank).
  - (6) List designated items to be given to specific people

**GOODY BAGS FOR FRIENDS:**

- Make a “goody bag” for your friend(s). Inside include that person’s favorite items. Examples:

  - (1) **Snack(s)** (fruit, nuts, cookies, candy...)
  - (2) **Drink(s)** (fruit juice, soft drinks, water...)
  - (3) **Gift card(s)** (sport’s event, concert, museum, restaurant, zoo...)
  - (4) **Promise note(s)** (write specific chore(s) that you will do for the person)
  - (5) **Friendship card, poem or drawing**

**MISSION ACTIVITY:**

- Invite a child whose parent(s) passed away to go to a sport’s event, dinner, movie or other outing with you. Be sure to get guardian’s approval.
- Invite a widow/widower to join your family for an outing.

**PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

- With your friends/family plan a progressive dinner. Go to different homes or restaurants for fel-

**BIBLE READING - Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-6,11-15,17-53; 12:1-9**

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
Luke 10:38-42	John 11:1-6,11-15	John 11:17-27	John 11:28-37	John 11:38-44	John 11:45-53	John 12:1-9