

Week 24

Jesus Visits Friends

Jesus visited His friends Mary and Martha. Martha was very busy! She wanted to clean the house and prepare a good meal for Jesus. She worked and worked! Martha wanted her sister Mary to help her. Martha became anxious and upset. She said to Jesus, "Don't You care that Mary has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me."

(*) All this time, Mary had been sitting, listening to Jesus talk about God's love. Jesus said, "Martha, Martha. You are upset and worried about many things. There is only one thing that is needed, and Mary has chosen it. I will not take it away from her."

Jesus was telling Martha that it is so important to listen to God's Word and learn about all that He has done for us. Sometimes, we get busy with many things in our lives. Jesus wants us to take time to listen to His Word also.

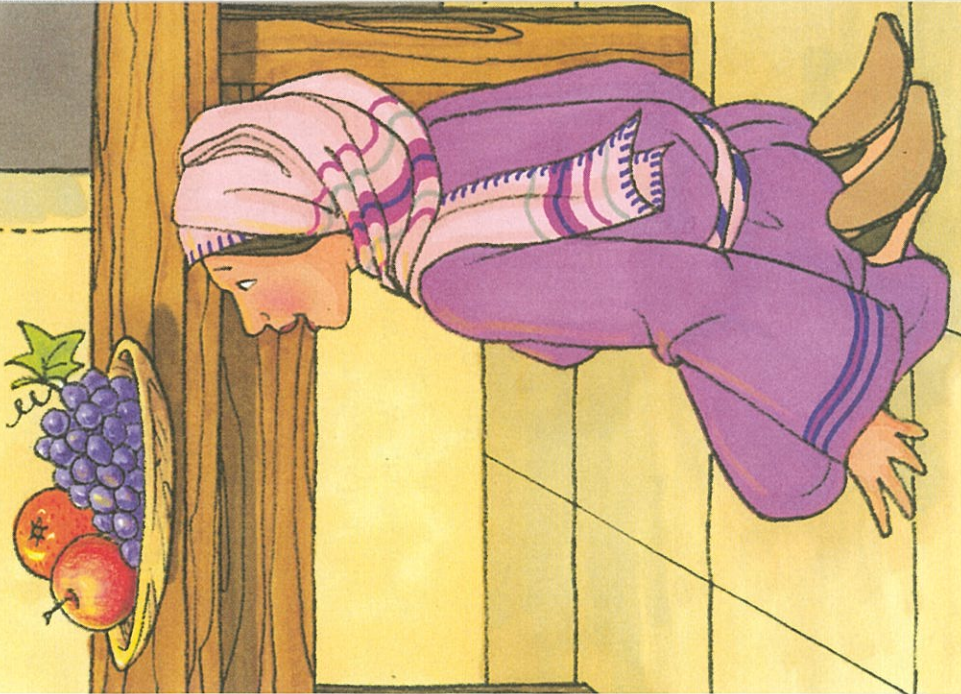
Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

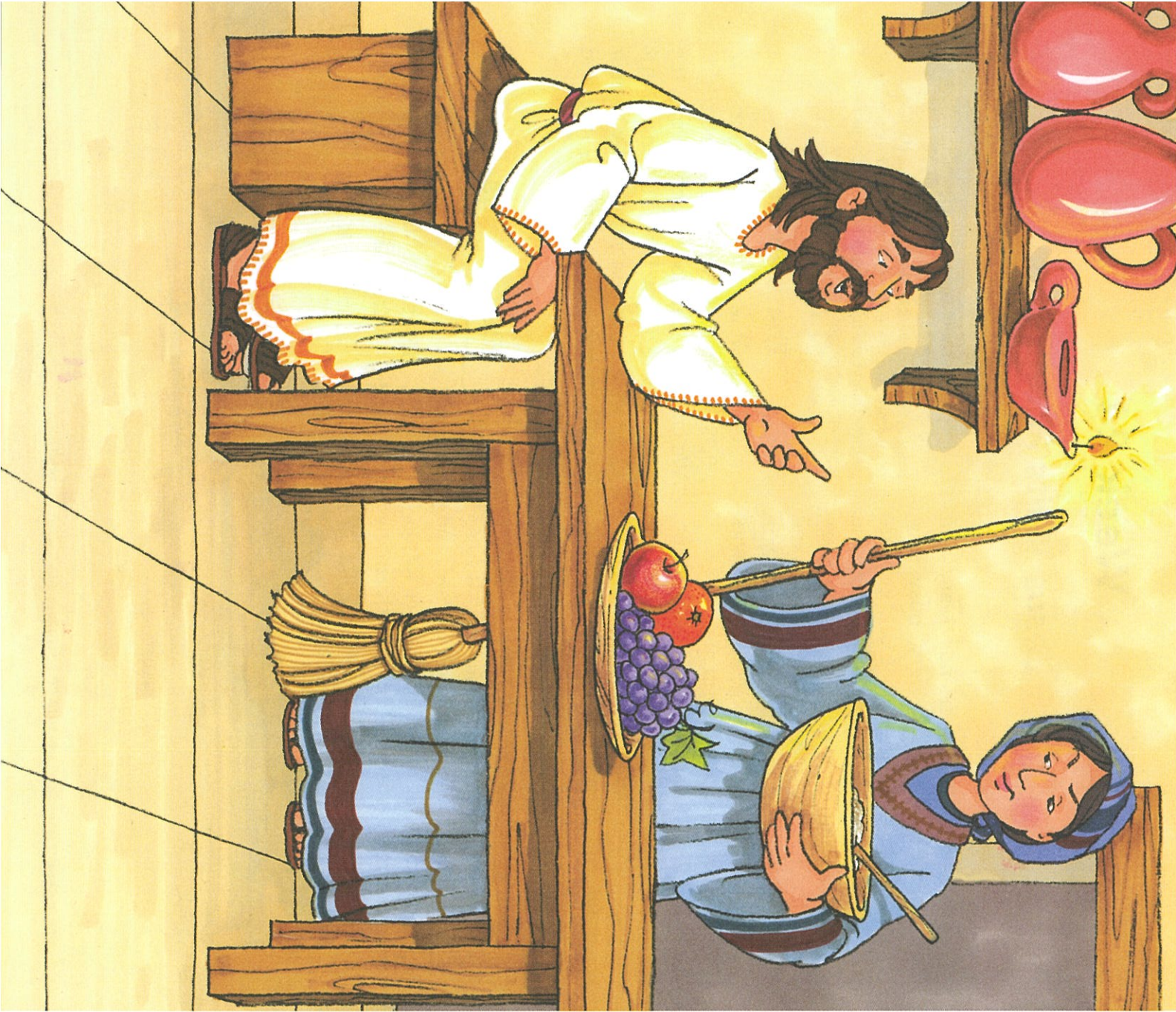
Think about It

Read about Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38–42. Mary listened to Jesus speak. We can hear Him too in God's Word, the Bible. Where do you listen to God's Word? Jesus wants you and your family to hear His Word and to learn of His love and salvation.

Bible Words

Jesus said, "Learn from Me."
Matthew 11:29





Dear Family,

Take time this week to listen! Listen to God as He speaks to you through His Word in church, through personal Bible reading, and at family prayer time.

Note that Jesus didn't scold Martha for doing her work, but rather that she became upset and did not take time to hear about God's love. When we take time out for God, He will richly bless that time to ease our worries and anxieties.

Help your child listen in church. Suggest things that she can listen for, such as whenever the name of Jesus is mentioned, music from the organ or piano, God's people greeting one another. Use the other senses by suggesting things for him to look for, such as crosses and the pictures in the windows; things to touch, such as the offering basket, the hymnal, the pews; and things to smell, such as the candles and the flowers. We have these special things in church so that we can listen, learn, and honor Jesus.