

STUDY GUIDE

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

WEEK 3 - Filling Up Before Pouring Out - Part 2

KEY VERSE

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

- Luke 10.38-42

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Can you describe a moment in your life where you were surprised by what you would consider the presence of God? Describe the moment...what were you doing? How did you sense God with you? Did anything change at that moment?
2. Similar to the first question, can you describe an experience of being "distracted" away from an awareness of God's presence? Describe that moment...how did you sense you were being distracted? What activity or thought took you away? What or who helped you become aware of the distractions?
3. Notice in the passage that Jesus doesn't tell Martha that her attempt to provide for her guest was a bad thing, he said it wasn't the best thing. Can you recall a time in your life when doing a good thing became a hindrance to do the better thing?

4. As you consider the story of Martha and Mary, what conclusion can be drawn about the importance of “sitting at the Lord’s feet and listening” in the life of a disciple?

5. As you reflect on your journey with Jesus, what encouragement can you draw from Martha and Mary’s story? How may the Lord be inviting you into a new season of deepened intimacy with him? What are the obstacles or challenges to this invitation? What is one step you can take to move forward in His invitation?

HEAR - SAY - DO _____

Step 1 - As a group, read aloud the verses from Luke 10.38-42 one more time (preferably in a few different translations).

Step 2 - Write the key verse that stands out to you, in your own words (Be as creative as you like, as long as it reflects the authentic you]

Step 3 - After having heard and processed the verse, how will it look for you to apply this in your life this week (be specific)?

***As a group, share your desired action step for the week and then, together, pray and ask the Lord to bless each person’s step. Next week, come prepared to share your experience.**



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