

## Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

February 24, 2019

### *Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing*

#### LUKE

Luke 10:38-42

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### KEY VERSES

<sup>38</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup> 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!" <sup>41</sup> "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

#### DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Sisters Mary and Martha illustrate two different responses to the presence of Jesus. Mary sits at his feet while Martha goes about her daily tasks and feels stressed that she's not getting everything done. Most of us relate to both sisters and can imagine ourselves in their places.

**Read the scripture from the point of view of each sister and consider what her experience of Jesus was like. Reflect on situations where you tend to respond to Jesus more like Mary or more like Martha. What are some factors that influence your response?**

Although we cannot literally sit at Jesus' feet, we can come into his presence at any time through prayer and scripture. Spending time with Jesus reminds us of his boundless love and amazing sacrifice and helps us claim our spiritual identity. Dutch pastor and author Henri Nouwen wrote: "Spiritual identity means we are not what we do or what people say about us. And we are not what we have. We are the beloved daughters and sons of God."

**Share examples of the "identities" that are important to you and how they influence your daily life. What would change if you proclaim "beloved child of God" as your core identity?**

Spending time with Jesus is a practice of solitude, although we do not have to be physically alone to encounter Him. Along with the practices of community and service, the discipline of solitude is key to spiritual health. As seasons of life change, so does our need for solitude. We should periodically take stock to see whether our practices are spiritually meaningful or just another task on our to-do list.

**Share some ways you spend time with Jesus in your daily life. Are these practices helping you flourish spiritually? If not, what are some new practices you could try?**

*Dear Lord, we encounter you in the messy circumstances of our everyday lives, and all too often, we go about our business rather than sit at your feet. We seek to maintain the identities we create for ourselves rather than claim the identity that comes from you – beloved child of God. Remind us that nothing we do can add to or take away from that identity. Help us to drop everything and sit with you today that we might be restored to love and serve the world you created. Amen.*