

## MEETING 22

# HOW DO WE REFOCUS ON GOD?

**WE REFOCUS ON GOD BY REMEMBERING WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE.**

MARTHA INVITED JESUS TO HER HOME, AND SHE BUSIED HERSELF WITH PREPARING THE MEAL. MARY, HER SISTER, TOOK A DIFFERENT APPROACH, SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS. MARTHA'S FRUSTRATION WITH MARY PROMPTED HER TO COMPLAIN TO JESUS. JESUS SHOWED MARTHA SHE WAS FOCUSING ON THE WRONG THING AND MARY WAS FOCUSED ON THE RIGHT THING, JESUS. DISTRACTIONS ARE EVERYWHERE, BUT GOD WANTS YOU TO FOCUS ON WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE'S DONE.

### UNIT VERSE

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. *Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)*

### BIBLE VERSE

You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. *Jeremiah 29:13*

### BONUS VERSE

And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. *Ephesians 4:32*

### BIBLE STORY

Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

### BIBLE TRUTH

We refocus on God by remembering who He is and what He has done.

### LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

- Preteens: God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory.

### BIBLE SKILL

Establishes the discipline of daily Bible reading

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible story and life application by sharing this meeting's Parent Connection (Item 64).

## Large Group

### PROVIDE:

- Bible
- Activity Books

### Tell the Bible story.

- Ask: "Have you ever had special guests visit your home? Do you remember how you prepared?" Announce that today's Bible story shares what happened when Jesus decided to visit the home of sisters Mary and Martha.
- Open your Bible to Luke 10:38-42. Hold the Bible open on your lap and tell the following Bible story.



### **MARY AND MARTHA BASED ON LUKE 10:38-42**

*One day while Jesus and His disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village. A woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. Martha's sister, Mary, was at the house, too.*

*Mary was happy that Jesus was in the house. She sat at Jesus' feet and listened to everything He said. But Martha had so much work to do! Jesus was here! She needed to cook the food and get everything ready for a meal! Martha worked around the house and in the kitchen.*

*Finally, Martha asked Jesus, "Don't you care that my sister, Mary, has left me to do all of the work? Tell her to help me." Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. Mary has made the right choice to sit and listen to Me. I won't take that from her."*

### Review the Bible story.

- Designate one side of the room as the Mary side and the opposite side as the Martha side. Read aloud the following statements and instruct kids to stand on the side of the room that best describes the person. If the answer is both sisters, direct kids to stand in the middle of the room.
  1. She welcome Jesus into her house. (*Martha*)
  2. She was happy Jesus came to the house. (*Both*)
  3. She cooked food for the meal. (*Martha*)
  4. She sat with Jesus and listened to what He had to say. (*Mary*)
  5. She was upset with her sister for not helping get the meal ready. (*Martha*)

## Game: WILL YOU WHINE WITH ME?

Form a socially distanced circle. Ask for a volunteer to help you explain how to play the game. Note that whatever the volunteer does, she should not smile while you are talking to her. Stand in front of the volunteer in the circle and say in your whiniest, and most dramatic voice possible, "But Mary didn't help me!" in hopes of making the volunteer smile. If she does, she then becomes the one in the middle of the circle, and she repeats the activity in hopes of making the next player smile. If she succeeds, she swaps places with that player. If she doesn't succeed in making the player smile, she attempts to do so to another player. If after three times she isn't able to make someone smile, she may choose another volunteer to take her place. The game continues as time allows.

### Debrief:

Martha complained to Jesus that Mary wasn't helping enough. Jesus didn't respond how Martha thought He would. Jesus wanted the women, and us, to spend time focusing on Him and listening and learning from His teaching.



## Missions

### TECH:

- Item 73: "Kids on Mission"

- Invite kids to look at the picture and describe the different style of clothes and houses that they see.
- Say: "This is a village in Africa. The baby is a part of a missionary family who chose to live in Africa to tell people about Jesus. This baby will grow up wearing different clothes, eating different foods, and speaking another language. This baby will learn to love the people and will call Africa 'home.' When missionary families move to another country, they make a new home where God asks them to live.
- Tell them that God might ask them to go to another country one day and live in a different kind of home. Say: "Wherever God asks us to live is the best place. Missionaries obey God to live and raise their families in a new home."
- Close in prayer for missionaries making their homes all over the world.

### Pray.

- Lead kids in prayer. Ask them to spend a few moments in silence, focusing on who God is to each of them.

## Small Group

### PROVIDE:

- Activity 1: Paper, marker

### TO DO:

- Activity 1: Write the words of Jeremiah 29:13 on the paper (one verse per team).

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- Review the Bible story. When Jesus came to Martha's house, she did what a lot of people would do—she ran around getting ready. Her sister, Mary, didn't help. She stayed in the room with Jesus and listened to Him. Jesus explained it was more important to focus on Him and what He had to say than being busy.
- Explain that Martha was upset with Mary because she wasn't helping prepare the meal for Jesus. Ask: "Do you ever find yourself busy?" Explain that when someone gets busy, he might not realize how much time has passed and might forget important things he was supposed to do. Say: "In today's Bible story, Jesus spoke not only to Mary and Martha, but also to you and me. He wants us all to remember who God is and what He has done. Knowing and understanding this is more important than being busy all the time."
- Review today's Bible truth: We refocus on God by remembering who He is and what He has done. Ask: "What are some things God has done for you that you need to remember?" Make a list of things the kids come up with. Discuss reasons why kids may need to refocus on God—because of distractions in their lives. Close with a prayer of praise, thanking God for all He has done.

### Expand the Session.

- Lead kids to complete this week's activity page.

### MEMORY VERSE TRAVEL

- Open your Bible and read aloud Jeremiah 29:13. Ask: "What does this verse tell us to do?" (*Seek God.*) "What will happen will you do this?" (*You will find God.*) Remind kids that in today's Bible story, Mary wanted to spend time with Jesus and learn from His teaching.
- Form two teams. Designate an area for each team to stand and place one copy of the completed verse at the start line. Walk several feet away and place a blank sheet of paper and marker on the floor or table. Challenge each team to send one player at a time to the blank piece of paper to add the next word to the verse. Note the first player will go to the paper and write the word You. Add that the paper with the verse on it must stay at the start line. Challenge teams to be encouraging and to help keep up with what the next added word should be. Play until a team has written the entire verse.

