

DISCUSSION NOTES

AUG 20, 2017

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more deeply, & strengthen you to live what you learn.

GETTING STARTED

1. You have ten seconds each to answer the following question: what are the top 2-3 things that stress you out when you have people over to your home? Name the first things that come to mind! Go.

DIGGING IN

2. Read Luke 10:38-42. Make 7-10 quick observations about these verses. Who is present? What action occurs? What emotions are shown? What is surprising? What is the primary focus?
3. Who owned the house where this took place? Whose idea was it to invite Jesus and the disciples to her home? These seem to indicate a hospitable person, but given what we see in the rest of the interaction, how successful was the hospitality?
4. Which two verbs are used to describe what Mary is doing? How is this a stark contrast from Martha?
5. Verse 40 describes Martha as “distracted.” What does the verse say has caused Martha to become distracted? We normally would think of serving as a good thing, but here it is clearly a negative thing. Why do you think that’s the case?
6. If you were filming this scene for a movie, what would Martha’s face and mannerisms be like when Jesus replies to her? Would anyone in the group be willing to role play this? How is Jesus’ answer obviously unexpected from Martha’s point of view?
7. How does Jesus describe Martha in verse 41? What do you think brought this about in Martha?
8. Note the way that Jesus offers a lesson on true hospitality: Martha was worried and troubled about “many things,” but missed out on the “one thing” that was *necessary*. What is the one thing we can’t miss out on?

LIVING IT OUT

9. Do you ever set yourself up for failure by overcommitting, taking on too much responsibility, or setting unrealistic expectations and then feel angry at others and all alone when things become stressful?
10. In what ways do you act like Martha—being so worried and anxious about secondary things that you are distracted from doing the most important thing?
11. How can you become more like Mary who sat down and really listened to Jesus? Can you name one specific way that you can grow in setting aside distractions and giving others your undivided attention?
12. Can you name one neighbor, co-worker, classmate, or new friend that you will commit to spend time with soon with the goal of sitting down, setting aside distractions, and giving him or her your undivided attention by really listening to him or her? Would you give the group permission to pray for you and to hold you accountable to follow through on this commitment?