



17-23 July 2022 • Faith 24/7

## Seize the moment

 **Luke 10.38-42**

Martha invites Jesus to the home she shares with her sister, Mary. Mary is so absorbed in what Jesus has to say that she forgets to go and help Martha prepare a meal and serve their guest. But when Martha is cross about this, Jesus points out that listening to him and learning are the most important things right now.

Now read **Luke 10.38-42** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Martha and Mary would not have many chances to listen to Jesus in their own home. They needed to seize the opportunity. Do you think Martha might have been just a bit over the top in preparing a splendid meal, when a simple one would have done? Or, do you think Mary should have helped? Both sisters welcome Jesus in their own way – Martha by offering provision, Mary by offering attention.

**Notebook**

This week, keep a daily notebook of your activities. You could make you own by folding a few sheets of A4 paper in half. See the activities below for more details.



Read the story together, then discuss how both sisters might have listened to Jesus and/or done things differently. Turn your ideas into a short sketch, set in a modern context (i.e. the Bible characters, but as it might happen in your world). Choose an appropriate title for it. Act it out – if you can, in front of an audience.



Are you more of a doing or being person? How do you make time for Jesus?



In your notebook (see above), draw a circle and make it into the face of a clock. Think about the things you do at different times of the day and write or draw them around the clock, with a line linking them to the matching time. Draw another clock and repeat the exercise with things that you think might be important to include 'if only you had time'. You could repeat this each day during the week.



In your notebook (see above), draw an hourglass – similar to the one in this week's picture. Think about things that you consider the most important for you, or your community, country, or the world to be concerned about right now, but for which time is running out. Write or draw these around the hourglass. During the week, add to the picture as new thoughts come to mind. At the end of the week, try to think of one thing you could do to make a difference to one of these urgent issues.

**Pray**



Together as a household, make a poster with a large hourglass in the centre. Cut out images and headlines/articles from newspapers and magazines that show or illustrate things you would like to pray about. Stick these onto the poster. If you can't find something for an issue that concerns you, add your own words to the poster. Display the poster in a prominent place. At the end of the week, spend some time together praying about the issues you have highlighted.



Daily Readings for week commencing 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2022		
<b>Monday</b>	1 Samuel 1: 1-20	Luke 19: 28-40
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Samuel 1: 21-2:11	Luke 19: 41-end
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Samuel 2: 12-26	Luke 20: 1-18
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Samuel 2: 27-end	Luke 20: 9-19
<b>Friday</b>	1 Samuel 16: 14-end	Luke 8: 1-3 <i>Mary Magdalene</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Samuel 4: 1b-end	Luke 20: 27-40

*Pray for those in need...* Please pray for the people of Ukraine...for those in need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Shane, Bryn, Katie-Lou, Margaret and Alison... **Please pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one...** remembering the souls of Maureen and George



100 Club Winners  
 for July:  
**No. 18**  
**Maureen Palmer.**  
**No. 21**  
**Penny Welford.**

**Welcome to Revd Peter Hart who leads and preaches at our service today!**

**Bands in the Park**  
 Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2-4 p.m.  
 Newtown Green.

St Matthews are running a Tombola Stall prizes and help needed on the day. Speak to Phil or Penny.

**Seizing the moment**

Are you good at seizing the moment? It requires a mixture of discernment and decisiveness. We're not going to fall into committed discipleship by chance. It would have been so easy for Mary to do what she always did when visitors arrived. If Martha cooked, probably she laid the table. That's how it generally works, isn't it? Or perhaps Mary arranged the flowers. She may have known that Martha would be cross if she didn't supply her usual help with the bits Martha found difficult or a nuisance. She needed courage. And it looks as if she had good concentration as well. She sat at Jesus feet 'and listened'. She wasn't shirking, pretending to want to learn or pretending to give Jesus the respectful attention due to an honoured guest. She wasn't playing for effect either, looking over her shoulder to test the reaction she was getting. She was single-minded.

Do you admire her, or find her a bit unattractive? Single-minded people can be a bit off-putting, or a bit irritating! Have you ever had a friend who was impossible to lure out for a drink, or to a film, because he or she was working for an exam, or needing to get on with the end-of-year figures – or something like that? Maybe when it comes to finding the opportunities to 'listen for God' we all need to be a bit less concerned about how other people see us. Maybe, sometimes, we need to be irritating! Not 'just because', but because we've thought about it, and we're confident that we've seized an opportunity too important to let pass by.