

## SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

**BIG IDEA:** Don't be too busy to learn from God

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Luke 10:38-42

Psalm 1

Psalm 119:9-16

Romans 8:3-11

Romans 12:1,2

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Luke 10:38-42

What is most important to Martha? to Mary?

Imagine that an important person and their support staff have decided to make an unexpected visit your home.

What is the first thing you would do?

How would you feel if you didn't get any help from your family?

Why do we find it so easy to be critical of Martha?

Psalm 1

List all your sources of input: Internet, social media, TV, etc. Order them by time spent with each.

How would Psalm 1 suggest you change that order?

What does it mean to meditate on the law of the Lord?

How is meditation different from study?

When was the last time you spent time meditating on God's Word?

### PRAYER FOCUS:

Praise God for His desire to be known by us.

Confess that you are most distracted by (fill in the blank).

Thank God for giving you His Spirit to guide you.

Ask God to show you opportunities to spend time with Him.

### ACTION:

Daily read through Psalm 119 until you find a scripture that is meaningful to you. Copy that scripture and put it in a place where you will see and read it several times throughout your day.

## FAMILY RESOURCES

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### READ LUKE 10:38

Make a list of people that have been in your home.

### READ LUKE 10:39

What kinds of things do you do with people when they are in your home?

### READ LUKE 10:40

Who gets your home ready for guests?

### READ LUKE 10:41-42

What is the most important thing you should do with the people that come to your home?

### READ PSALM 1:1-3

Look up the word "meditate" in the dictionary.

Why would you invite someone into your home and then not spend time with them?

Why would you invite God into your life and then not spend time with Him?

### MEMORY VERSE:

" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

Luke 21:33

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
12	11	2	20	9	1	18	7	21	4	8	14	15	22	23	6	10	3	5	26	25	13	19	24	17	16

15 12 22    20 23 9 5    22 23 26    14 21 13 9    23 22    11 3 9 12 20

12 14 23 22 18    11 25 26    23 22    9 13 9 3 17    19 23 3 20

26 7 12 26    2 23 15 9 5    1 3 23 15    26 7 9    15 23 25 26 7

23 1    26 7 9    14 23 3 20

20 9 25 26 9 3 23 22 23 15 17

8 : 3

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Cryptogram

T N A D Y A Q P U Y S Z I R E Q O H D D M P Y F Q Y Y V U Y  
L H E Q D U H M S E C O N D C O R I N T H I A N S I N R  
T M Q Z J F P R P S E C O N D J O H N V K E H G L A W E  
R Q F C C I V H G J H Y L U K E C U X B X I H H P U K V  
O M D P V R U S Z P F N S O Q C Q P X P O J V N M X C E  
M E H V K S M M F G X W E Q G U T N I P L J Z W L Q U L  
C I N Q Z T W A N F I R S T T H E S S A L O N I A N S A  
O T N P F C U T B B N D S B P T M H P J K I K F T P C T  
L D I S O O G T A M C G S Q P H P X S D B Q I P C K I I  
O F J A P R X H C K Z A E A P E I A T P N J U N I B K O  
S I Q G C I M E T D P L C R J P M L V I O G H A P G W N  
S R N B W N S W S F Y A O U H H A W E Z R V T O D W X R  
I S Y B X T L V R T K T N N U E R G A M E V J Q X F E B  
A T H P N H N G E J R I D T C S K R Z V O W T A W E N S  
N P B M S I J S X C O A P I G I D E Q X E N J T G M Z D  
S E A Q E A P E P J M N E T Y A Z L K C N S N X H A V U  
R T N X C N H Z C M A S T U R N Y B N F X M F J S P P E  
R E H E O S I E X F N Y E S Q S O J A M E S A J G Z L N  
I R W N N S L F J I S Z R P F I R S T T I M O T H Y H J  
X M H N D D I L G R H O A H E B R E W S W J U D E U Q T  
N H V Q T W P I A S V A G E S T R Y K Z V R Y I B W L Z  
G B H L I V P C P T H I R D J O H N N A G W O X L U Q V  
F E W F M I I F F J J A M W Y K E S J I X H B A L B J D  
G Q Y H O O A J U O O P E Q R X N E G J K C D M B E N C  
B V M N T Z N M P H H U Z W Q I U F M I P G X Q Z Y H  
I Y G V H Z S O N N V W U K C S T H I P E I U C G S B  
C G F G Y T R T T G M A Q V I K O J B A B N Q B G E T C  
O A S E C O N D T H E S S A L O N I A N S T O Q Q X U X

Find all the books  
of the New Testament.

How many words  
can you make using  
the letters in

**NEW TESTAMENT?**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:

Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

### Don't be too busy to learn from God

What kinds of things do you think Martha was doing? Why was she doing them? What was Mary doing? Why was she doing that? Why did Jesus say that Mary had made a better choice?

After telling/reading the story, use a bucket of water to illustrate what happens when we fill our lives up with busyness instead of with God's Word. God fills our lives with good and clean things. When we add rocks (busyness) to the water, we lose a lot of the good and clean things God has for us, and we get end up getting confused and "dirty".) When we are careful to fill up with God's Word, we clean up our lives again.

### KEY PHRASES:

If we don't USE IT (God's Word) we might LOSE IT! What are your choices? Is that your best choice?

THINGS/NOUNS: Jesus; disciples; village; woman; Martha; home; sister; Mary; feet; preparations; better;

ACTIONS: came; opened; sat; listening; distracted; asked; left; work; tell; help; answered; worried; upset; chosen;

IDEAS: "on their way" – so much of life happens then!; care – we seem to want others to care about the same things we care about; needs vs. wants; how often do we choose what is better?; Jesus will not send away someone chooses to listen and obey;

### BIBLE DRILLS:

#### What word/s are found in all these verses?

Exodus 7:16	Deuteronomy 34:9	2 Kings 18:12
Nehemiah 8:3	Isaiah 66:4	Jeremiah 23:18
Daniel 10:9	John 10:8	Acts 14:9

### OBJECT LESSON:

What happens to plants that do not get watered. Use potted plants or pictures to show the results. What happens when people do not get water? Plants get food from the soil. What happens when people do not get food? God's

word is like food and water to our spirits. We need it regularly!

Use several inexpensive mouse traps. Set them in an area and blindfold a volunteer. Ask the volunteer to walk through the traps. Will they be too busy to listen to you as you guide them? God's word helps us through the "traps" of life. We want to listen well!

### MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS:

Use Memory verse relays - (Say words aloud as they are placed on the floor/table.)

Memory verse puzzles – Set out groups of memory verses that are cut in a unique way (not word by word) and let people put them back together. Be sure the puzzles are read out loud when completed.

**"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Luke 21:33**

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11

"All your words are true, all your righteous laws are eternal." Psalm 119:160

"As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless." 2 Samuel 22:31

"Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." Deuteronomy 8:3

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Have the family set the table for dinner, placing the Bible in an important place on the table. Begin a habit of reading the Bible when you gather for meals.

What does it mean to be distracted from God? Make a list of some of the things that distract you from God.

Talk about "better" choices and ways that you can encourage each other to make better choices.

Learn the song "Psalm 1:1-2" from <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/memory-verses/psalms-112/>

## **GAMES:**

Set the Table relay - have items at one end that belong on the table (don't forget to include a Bible, table cloth, and a "center piece"). Have teams race to see who can set the table first. What is the most important thing to get right about setting the table?

BIBLE BINGO - with names of Books of NT or OT on the playing cards

Chart of Bible Books (one for each group) - make chart of Bible books, cutting them into the organized sections of history, poetry, prophecy, etc. for both NT and OT. Take turns putting them in order and being timed. (As sessions progress, cut apart the sets and see who can put them in order.) Challenge everyone to learn or help teach the book order of both OT and NT books.

Memory Verse Word Puzzles—use for relays

Can you spell it? Not all of the books are easy to spell! Draw the name of a book and ask someone to write it on a board. If they get it right, they get to draw the next book to spell.

Memory Verse Word Puzzles

Duck, Duck, Goose (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, ACTS! ...or any part/section of the books in their order)

Tic-Tac-Toe - Let the kids put an X or O on the board if they can tell if a book is in the OT or NT.

Make/play a fishing game with sticks, string, and magnets for poles and paper fish with paper clips on them.

Hot Potato toss/pass ball (or potato) to each other. Each person who catches the "potato" must say the next book of the Bible, or next word in the memory verse, before tossing/passing the ball on. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

## **SONG OPTIONS:**

God's Word Is For Me  
The Wisdom of the Lord  
If you Want to be Wise  
The Words of the Lord are True  
Every Word of the Lord is True  
Love Letter

## **CRAFTS:**

Each person begins on #1 and progresses through the crafts as each is finished.

#1 - Bible Book Cover (These need to be designed to go over the Bibles that will be given to each person. Put their new Bible in them for display and for pick up at the end of the sessions or as completed.)

#2 - Book Ends/stand (Made of wood bottoms with 4 holes and with bent wire in the holes and shaped to hold their new Bible in either an open or closed position- personally painted/finished wood?)

#3 - Bible Soap (God sent Jesus so that we could be clean!)

#4 - Make "old parchment" for use as a scroll, writing an appropriate verse on it

#5 - Make a Bible Book mark

OTHER OPTIONS - Memory verse plaque

## **COMMUNION OPTIONS:**

Luke 22:39-46 - Where would we be if Jesus had allowed Himself to be distracted? What if He had responded to God with the words "not now" instead of "not my will, but yours be done"? During Jesus' ministry, He was constantly being interrupted by people and their needs. However, it seems that though He was constantly interrupted He was never distracted. In Luke 9:51, we are told that Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem." Jesus was determined to go to the cross and die for our sins. His prayer in the passage we read at the beginning tells us this was not an easy thing to do. What would happen in our lives if we decided to be as determined and focused as Jesus? We struggle to stay focused on Him for the brief time it takes for us to share around His table. Turn away from your distractions and focus on Jesus for just a few minutes this morning as we share in this meal together.

## **OFFERING OPTIONS:**

Matthew 6:19-21 - Stuff distracts us. If you're a visual person, the smallest movement or flicker of light will cause your head to turn to check it out. Stuff not only distracts us,

but it can lead us astray. Jesus tells us there is a solution to our struggle to focus. If we want to set our minds on heavenly things, then all we must do is move our stuff to heaven. The difficulty is that while we get monthly reports on our bank accounts, we don't get the same kind of statement from heaven. That's probably a good thing. If we got the same kind of statement from heaven we might begin wondering when we had deposited enough. Just thinking about that question tells us that our hearts haven't moved there yet and suggests that we still have too much treasure here. The only way to solve this problem seems to be making consistent and significant deposits in heaven. Our weekly offering is just one opportunity to do that. If you have some stuff that is distracting your heart from following Jesus, what would happen if you gave that stuff away?

#### **MORE RESOURCES:**

Many of us are trained to do Bible study. This is a good thing to do. It is also good to spend time reading and meditating on the Bible with other people. An ancient practice called "dwelling in the Word" is being revived. Here are several resources that explain what this is about and how to do it:

This article provides three different approaches you might try. I like the second approach as it includes an action step. If we are spending time with Jesus by spending time in the Bible we ought to be changed, we should be doing something differently as a result.

<http://www.davidlose.net/2014/01/3-ways-to-dwell-in-the-word/>

This has the simplest explanation of "dwelling in the word" and one that has been used in groups with people of many different ages, so it should be well suited for families.

<http://www.churchinnovations.org/2015/09/01/dwelling-in-the-word/>

This document provides the most detailed explanation of what this practice is intended to accomplish.

[http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/498/Orientation\\_Dwelling\\_in\\_the\\_Word.pdf](http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/498/Orientation_Dwelling_in_the_Word.pdf)

This little book provides challenging insights into what it

might look like to spend our days focused on spending time with Jesus in the community of others.

[Life Together](#) by Dietrich Bonhoeffer