

Spotlight on Prayer 5

THE WOMAN WHO LISTENED

Meditating on God's Word

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT: TALKING WITH GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes (This lesson can be taught as part of Unit 4 – Kingdom Food)

Scripture Luke 10:38 - 42

Objectives To explain that

- Today's story is about talking with God, and especially about listening to him as we read his Word.
- Mary and Martha were both serving Jesus. Mary chose the most important thing when she sat and listened to Jesus.
- Jesus speaks to us through his Word. We need to take time to listen to him.
- Listening to what Jesus says to us in the Bible is a bit like chewing gum. We need to keep chewing until we get all the flavor (meaning) out. This is called meditating on God's Word.
- We can listen to God's Word by reading a verse, asking Jesus to speak to us from the verse, and then drawing a picture of it.

Memory Verse "Happy are those who love the Lord's teachings, and think about those teachings day and night. They are strong, like a tree planted by a river." (Psalm 1:1-3a NCV)

**ACNA
Catechism
Connections**

Today's story of The Woman Who Listened is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q31 What does it mean that Holy Scripture is the Word of God? The Old and New Testaments are inspired by the Holy Spirit and are therefore the Word of God written. God is revealed in his mighty works and in the incarnation of our Lord, which are made known through the inspired writings of the biblical authors. God "has spoken through the prophets" (Nicene Creed) and continues to speak through Scripture today.

Q232 How should you “inwardly digest” Scripture? I should meditate on Scripture and let it shape my thoughts and prayers. As I absorb Scripture, it deepens my knowledge of God, becomes the lens through which I understand my life and the world around me, and guides my attitudes and actions.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Large Bible
- The Kingdom Life storyboard is **not** used in this lesson.

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Poster picture of Jesus, Mary, and Martha (found in props document)
- Chewing gum
- Bible
- Drawing handout with memory verse (found in props document)
- Poster picture of tree by river (found in props document)
- Colouring pencils (identical set for each child if possible)

Memory Verse: “Happy are those who love the Lord’s teachings, and think about those teachings day and night. They are strong, like a tree planted by a river.”
(Psalm 1: 1-3a NCV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	The Doxology (Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow) Speak O Lord – Stuart Townend (first verse) Please check internet for lyrics and music.
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. Storyboard review is found in Section 3
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	Proceed with story and prayer found in Section 4.
Related activities	After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. See Resource Section.

3 | Storyboard Progression

The Kingdom Life storyboard is not used in this lesson.

This is the poster used in this lesson (found in props document):



4 | Story and Prayer

SETUP: *Have paper and colouring pencils on hand, as well as the drawing handouts with the memory verse – one for each child. The teacher may want to draw their own picture at home ahead of time, and share it with the children at the very end. The storyboard is not used in this lesson.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's story is from the Bible, and it is about talking with God in prayer, and especially about listening to him as we read his Word.'*

STORY:

ACTION: *Show children the poster of Mary, Martha, and Jesus.*

TEACHER: What do you see in this picture? *(Jesus, a few people sitting down, a woman sitting by Jesus' feet, another woman carrying food etc.)*

The woman carrying food is called Martha. The woman sitting by Jesus' feet is called Mary. Jesus was visiting their house because they were his friends.

Both Mary and Martha were so happy that Jesus came for a visit. What do you think Martha is doing for Jesus in this picture? *(Have children respond.)*

Yes, I think she is wanting to cook a special meal for him. There was so much to do to make Jesus feel really welcome. Martha looks upset because she wants Mary to help her.

TEACHER: What is Mary doing? *(Have children respond.)* Yes, she is sitting down, listening to Jesus.

Martha wanted Mary to help her with all the things she needed to do for Jesus. She was getting angry and impatient with Mary for not helping her. She asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her.

But Jesus said: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken away from her."

TEACHER: What did Mary choose that was better? Yes, listening to Jesus was the best and most important thing!

Jesus wants **us** to sit and listen to him too, just like Mary did. He wants us to be still for a moment and **really listen** to what he says to us in the Bible.

Listening to what Jesus says in the Bible is a bit like chewing gum. (*Hold up piece of gum.*) How do you get the flavour out of the chewing gum? (*Let the children respond.*) Yes, you keep chewing and chewing to get as much flavour out as you can!

The Bible is our spiritual food. (*Hold up the Bible.*) Jesus wants us to take time to **read** and to **chew** on his Word until we get all the flavour from it, just like we do with the chewing gum. Chewing on God's Word means that we are meditating on it. We are **really listening** and understanding what Jesus is saying to us.

TEACHER: How do we meditate on God's Word? (*Let the children respond.*)

Yes, we slowly read it over and over, and we take time to think about it and absorb it. We take it into our mind and soul and let it shape us to become more like Jesus.

We are going to spend some time meditating on God's Word right now. We will listen to what Jesus wants to say to us.

Let's read our memory verse together.

ACTION: *Have the children echo one sentence at a time.*

ECHO TOGETHER: "Happy are those who love the Lord's teachings, and think about those teachings day and night. They are strong, like a tree planted by a river." (Psalm 1: 1-3a)

TEACHER: (*Hold up "tree by river" picture.*) This verse talks about how a tree grows strong when it is planted next to the river and can draw water from the river all the time. In the same way, we can grow strong spiritually when we read and think about God's Word often.

Now we will take a few minutes by ourselves, to think about this verse, to meditate on it. Let's try to get all the flavour out and think about what the verse really means.

You can take a piece of paper and a few colouring pencils. In a moment I want you to find somewhere in this room where you can sit alone, away from the others. When you have sat down by yourself, you can draw a picture of something you love from this verse.

Let's pray before we start: "Lord Jesus, speak to us now through your Word. Help us to listen to you like Mary did in our story. Amen."

ACTION: Give the children colouring pencils and the drawing handout with the memory verse. Have them find a quiet place by themselves.

TEACHER: Listen to the verse one more time. *(Walk around the children and read the verse out loud again for the benefit of the non-readers.)*

ACTION: Give the children time to meditate on the verse while playing soft instrumental worship music. After 6 -10 minutes, call them back together to share what Jesus said to them.

TEACHER: Do any of you want to share what Jesus said to you through this verse, or show us your drawing?

ACTION: Give the children opportunity to show their drawing. Acknowledge all the drawings, and highlight the ones that relate to the scripture. At the end share the picture you drew as well and how the verse spoke to you.

TEACHER: This is something you can do at home as well. When you read your Bible, you can choose a verse to meditate on like we did today. And you can ask yourself: "What does Jesus want to say to me?"

Life Application Prayer:

TEACHER: Lord Jesus, thank you that you speak to us through your Word, the Bible. When we read your Word and take time to listen to you, we become like the tree that draws water from the river. Your Word makes us spiritually strong. Help us to take time to listen to your voice every day. Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What did you learn about prayer today?** (Jesus speaks to us through the Bible.)
- **How was Mary an example to us in today's story?** (She took time to listen to Jesus. This was the most important thing.)
- **What can chewing gum teach us about reading the Bible?** (When we take time to read and "chew" or meditate on God's Word to get all the flavor (meaning) out, it helps us to listen to what Jesus says to us.)
- **What did we do today to "chew" on or meditate on God's Word?** (We read a verse from the Bible over and over, and then we sat by ourselves and thought about it, and drew a picture of it, thinking about each word.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

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and think about those
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They are strong,
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(Psalm 1:1-3)