

ENCOUNTERS

Mary & Martha

Growth Group Opener:

What task do you start with good intentions, but often end resentful or frustrated?

Read Luke 10:38-42

What do we see Martha doing right, as a hospitable hostess to an important guest?

Where in your life is your love naturally expressed through service?

What does it mean that Jesus welcomed Mary into the position of a learner, a disciple, which was a role traditionally reserved for men?

Is there a place at Jesus' feet you have thought wasn't for you because of your past, role, season of life, gender, etc.? What would it look like to take that place anyway?

What does v.40 describe as the problem with Martha's service?

What is the difference between serving out of love and serving distractedly?

What is the result in v40 of Martha feeling distracted and pulled in multiple directions? Where in your life might this description fit you right now?

What do you notice about Jesus' response to her accusation? What tone do you hear?

If Jesus were to say your name and what you are experiencing, what would he say?

What is the one thing Jesus says is necessary?

What does it mean that it cannot be taken away?

What is the one thing you have chosen lately...the thing you have organized your life around? What would it look like to shift that one thing to what cannot be taken away?

What do we learn about God from this passage?

Is there anything you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

Dig Deeper: Consider one way your service has become fractured from the God you serve. Then choose a small, concrete practice of sitting at his feet, even if it's just 15 min in the middle of a busy day. Choose him as your portion in spite of life's chaos.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the honor of both serving you and sitting at your feet. Thank you for inviting us to come close and teaching us how to live and love like you. In the name of Jesus, amen.