



FEBRUARY THEME

PLAYLIST

Put Love into the Mix

BIBLE STORY

Luke 10:38-42

I'm Yours | Jesus at the Home of Martha and Mary
Spark Story Bible, pg. 366-371
Mary and Martha

BOTTOM LINE

Love others in a way that meets them where they are

MEMORY VERSE

"Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you."
John 15:12, NIV

LIFE APP

Love | Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between LOVE and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

Key Question: What keeps you from connecting with others? Most people would never intentionally ignore others or make them feel like they don't matter. Often, we don't connect with others simply because we're not showing them love in a way that connects with them. When we start to understand how we connect with others—and how others connect with us—we'll be more likely to treat others the way we want to be treated.

In week two, we find Jesus at the home of his friends, Mary and Martha. In **Luke 10:38-42**, we find how these two sisters had different things in mind when it came to having Jesus in their home. Mary sat at Jesus' feet while he talked. Martha was busy doing all the things that she felt needed to get done. She complained to Jesus, but he answered that what Mary was doing was loving him in a way that resonated with her. Neither was a "right" or "wrong" way...just different.

Bottom Line: Love others in a way that meets them where they are. We often think that the only way we can show love for others is by being busy doing stuff for them. But sometimes people don't need us to be busy; sometimes they just need us to be. When we meet others where they are and love them in a way that resonates with them, we have a better chance of showing them God's unending love.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Pray that kids would be inspired by Mary's example to pay attention to the needs of others, and to love them by meeting their needs. Ask God to help kids find ways to show love by meeting people where they are.

•• EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: "Mash Up" activity cards

What You Do:

- Stand together in a circle facing outward.
- Give each person a "Mash Up" card, but tell kids to not let others see it.
- At your signal, everyone should immediately begin to say what's written on their cards—all at the same time in loud voices.
- Tell them to repeat their phrases five times and then stop.
- Ask kids to turn around and try to identify what each person was saying.
- Repeat with a new "Mash Up" card or let kids come up with other words or short phrases based on a category or topic such as the following:



- their middle name
- a state in the U.S. other than the one they live in
- what they had for breakfast
- books of the Bible

What You Say: “Being a good listener takes effort. It also takes time. A lot of things compete for our time and attention. As we will learn/we learned in today’s Bible story, listening to someone is a great way to show them you love them.

•• MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Help kids think about who they spend time with throughout the day and how they can show love in different ways at different times.
- Ask kids to think about 7:00 in the morning, when they’re probably up and getting ready for school.
—Ask kids to tell you some things they do with people at that time of day. Maybe they’re eating breakfast with their siblings or watching the baby while a parent puts in a load of laundry.
- Then ask kids to think about 12:00 noon, when they’re probably eating lunch.
—Ask them to tell you some things they do with people at that time of day. Maybe they eat lunch with some friends at school, and perhaps they get to play outside for a little bit before heading back to class.
- Continue this activity with other times throughout the day, such as 4:00 (*after school*), 6:00 (*dinner time*), and 8:00 (*bed time*).

What You Say: “Wow! You sure have lots of opportunities throughout the day to show love to lots of different people in lots of different ways! **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about two sisters who showed love to Jesus at the same time in two very different ways.**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to Fellowship Hall for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• TIME OUT! [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to stand, and tell them they’re going to pretend to be clocks.
- You will share a statement related to the story they just heard, and then they will use their arms and body to create ‘12 o’clock’ if the statement is true and ‘3 o’clock’ if the statement is false.
- Give kids a moment to practice their clocks and provide help if needed.
- Read the following statements and give kids time to respond to each statement.
—Today’s story happened in Bethlehem. (*False*)
—Today’s story happened in Bethany. (*True*)
—Jesus and the disciples visited Mary and Martha’s house. (*True*)
—Both Mary and Martha were cleaning the house while Jesus was visiting. (*False*)
—Martha sat with Jesus. (*False*)
—Martha was busy while Jesus visited them. (*True*)
—Mary sat near Jesus and listened to everything he said. (*True*)



- Martha got upset with Mary because she had to do all the work herself. *(True)*
- Jesus scolded Mary and told her to help her sister. *(False)*
- Jesus said Mary was right to sit at his feet and listen to him. *(True)*
- We can show love to others by spending time with them and listening. *(True)*
- We can show love to others by cleaning our home for them and serving them food. *(True)*
- We should love others in a way that meets them where they are. *(True)*

What You Say: “You all make really great human clocks! In our Bible story, we heard about two sisters and their visit with Jesus. Martha opened her home to Jesus and was very worried and stressed out because of all the preparations. Her sister, Mary, sat by Jesus and listened to him. Martha thought that Mary should be helping her, but Jesus taught Martha that Mary had chosen a good way to love him, too. Mary and Martha both loved Jesus. They just did it in different ways.

“What about us? **[Make It Personal]** *(Share a personal story from a time when you were busy doing something else and you missed the opportunity to spend quality time with someone.)* God knows that we are busy, but God wants us to **[Bottom Line]** *love others in a way that meets them where they are.* When you choose to do something for others and give them your attention and best efforts, you show them that you value them and love them.”

●● **TIME TO LOVE** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Time to Love” activity pages, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out the “Time to Love” activity pages, and set out the markers where everybody can share them.
- Tell kids to think of someone in their life they could show love to by spending more time with: a little sibling, a friend, an older sibling, a parent, a grandparent, the older lady next door, etc.
 - Instruct kids to circle the picture that most looks like the person they’re thinking of.
 - Guide kids to draw a picture of a way they could spend time with that person this week or sometime very soon doing something that the other person loves to do.
- You might need to give them a few prompts to get them thinking:
 - You could play cards with your grandpa. —You could read a book with your mom.
 - You could do a craft with your little sister. —You could draw a picture for the lady next door who has been sick.
 - You could play catch with a friend. —You could go to the grocery store with your dad so he doesn’t have to go alone.
- **[Make It Personal]** *(Do the “Time to Love” activity page yourself, and/or tell kids someone you can spend time with this week and what you might do with that person that would show them you love them.)*

What You Say: “Those are some great ideas! I can tell you’re all going to do a fantastic job of living out our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line]** *Love others in a way that meets them where they are.* And do you know what? You can also love Jesus by spending time with him! Yes, you can! What are some ways you can spend time with Jesus? *(Reading the Bible, praying, singing worship songs, doing GodTime Cards)* That’s right. We can show Jesus we love him when we spend time doing all of these things. And remember, showing others we love them by meeting them where they are isn’t just something we need to do this week, but always!

●● **LOVE ONE ANOTHER** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Bible, “Love One Another” coloring pages, colored pencils

What You Do:

- Help kids look up John 15:12 using the tips below...
 - Finding verses with 2nd + 3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *(Hold up*

