

“Step Inside the Home of Mary and Martha”

by
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What This is an interactive skit from the "Step Inside" series. In this skit, the audience is invited into the home of Martha and Mary and reminded that God is always there for us when we listen.

Special Word of the Day: Listen. “God is always there for us when we listen.”

Each skit in the "Step Inside" series encourages audience participation and focuses on a word that can be used as your lesson or theme for the day. These skits bring Bible stories to life for children and remind them that God is always there for us.

Themes: Martha and Mary, Listening, Distractions, Bible Stories, Kids Ministry, VBS

Who Martha
Voice of Jesus

When Biblical Times

Costumes and Props A room decorated with elements to resemble the inside of a biblical kitchen (see below). Martha should be dressed in a tunic and have a head covering. She has a wooden bowl and spoon. A broom, a few bowls, spoons, a large basin, dishes, towels and cloths are nearby.

Why Luke 10:38-42

How Transform a classroom or large space into the home of Mary and Martha! For ideas on how to Go Simple! or Go Big! see below:

Go Simple! Inside your room or space, cover walls with simple grey, white or brown fabric or plastic dollar store tablecloths. Place a large wooden table or table covered with a brown tablecloth center. On one wall, a large stone fireplace made out of cardboard, posterboard, or drawn on large sheets of paper is present. A fire made from red, yellow, and orange paper or posterboard can

“Step Inside the Home of Mary and Martha”

be at the bottom of the opening of the fireplace. Additional kitchen items can be placed throughout the room, such as jugs of various sizes, hanging dried fruits and herbs, dishes, etc. These items can be real if you have them, or you can make them out of construction paper or posterboard or print out images from the internet and place them on your wall coverings, on shelves, tables, or hutches also made from construction paper or posterboard.

Go Big! Inside your room or space cover all walls with a stone wall scene setter or other paper, plastic, or fabric backdrop that looks like stone. Place a large wooden table center. Out of cardboard or foam board construct a large stone fireplace. Using real wood logs, and an artificial flame kit (available on Amazon or on many theatrical prop websites) create a moving, realistic looking fire. (There are also tutorials online showing how to make a prop campfire using small LED Christmas lights). Place the fireplace on one wall and put the fire inside the opening. You could also construct a fireplace crane or trapeze for Martha to use to cook in the fireplace. On the walls, hang wooden shelves at intervals, and place additional small tables or hutches around the room and fill the shelves and tables with stone jars, dishes and cookware. Hang dried herbs, meats, and fruits at intervals around the room.

Time Approximately 5 minutes

*At start of scene the children are waiting outside the room. **Martha** exits from room, a bowl in her hand. She bends and starts to “pick” herbs. As she straightens up, she sees children.*

Martha: *(startled)* Oh, my! I just came out to pick some herbs from my garden and here you all are. *(puts a hand on her hip and looks at the children suspiciously)* Hey, what are you doing in my garden anyway? *(wait for response)* Let me guess...you're here to see Jesus too, aren't you? *(waits for a response)* I'd love to listen to him too but I have too many chores to do and my sister isn't helping me...not one bit! *(anxiously)* And if I let you all in, do you know how much more work you're going to cause me? How many more mouths I'll have to feed? *(thinks)* Jesus wants everyone to hear the word of God, so I suppose I'll let you come in. *(turns back toward door, as if she is about to enter the room, then turns back suddenly, with a stern look on her face)* But you're going to have to pull your own weight and help me out with a few chores first. Is that understood? *(waits for a response, then steps back, opening door and extending her arm to let them know they can enter)* Alright, then step inside my home and have a seat.

*Once children are seated, **Martha** enters and crosses to stand near table. She puts the bowl down on table, then picks up another bowl and spoon and starts to stir, “adding herbs” from her smaller bowl to the mixture from time to time while she speaks.*

Martha: When you have guests in your home there is a lot that needs to be done. There are floors to be swept, dishes to clean, meals to prepare. A hostess needs to make sure that her guests are comfortable and well cared for. And when that guest is Jesus himself... *(shakes her head in wonder)* well, in that case, everything has to be perfect! And the meal... well, it has to be the most delicious meal Jesus has ever eaten! *(looks down into her bowl)* I was planning on making a stew, but now I'm not sure that'll be good enough for Jesus. *(looks up)* What's the most delicious meal you've ever eaten? *(waits for responses)* Well, I'm not sure if Jesus would like pizza. *(or another food item that was mentioned)* To be perfectly honest, I don't even know what pizza is! *(to child that mentioned pizza or other food item)* What is pizza? *(listens for response, then smiles)* Oooh, that does sound good! *(looks down at bowl again)* But I'd better stick with something I know. And Mary says I make the best stew in the entire village. Have you met my sister, Mary? *(waits for response, then becomes annoyed)* Well, you won't meet her here in the kitchen, that's for sure. She's too busy sitting at Jesus' feet to help her poor, weary sister with the cooking, baking, and cleaning. Luckily, all of you are here now, so let's get started on the chores. What kinds of chores do you do at home? *(waits for responses)* That's great. It's important for everyone to help out around the house. *(crosses her arms)* I wish my sister Mary would be as helpful as you guys are. *(hands bowl and spoon to a child)* Would you mind stirring this for me? *(waits for response)* Thank you. Just make sure you stir it exactly one hundred times, or else the ingredients

won't properly combine. *(crosses to table and picks up another bowl and spoon, then crosses to child and hands them a bowl and spoon)* I need you to turn these herbs into a paste, like this. *(demonstrates tapping the spoon into the bottom of the bowl and twisting)* Here, you try. *(crosses to broom and picks it up, then crosses to a child and indicates that they should stand up)* You can sweep the floors. Just make sure you get every speck of dirt! *(crosses to table and picks up a cloth, which can be handed out to a couple of children, or could be handed out to all remaining children)* You can dust the furniture. I want this kitchen to be spotless! Don't forget, Jesus is here, and everything has to be perfect!

Martha watches everyone cleaning for a few minutes, walks around, corrects, then takes back each of the items one by one and indicates that all children should sit. Then she crosses to table.

Martha: Thank you for your help everyone. But there's still so much to do! *(picks up a dish and a towel)* The dishes need to be washed. *(starts to wipe out the dish frantically)* and the vegetables need to be rinsed *(growing more frantic, takes the dish and towel and puts them under one arm while she uses another hand to put vegetables into bowl and mixes them around with the other hand)* And my stew! *(puts vegetables under her other arm, then picks up bowl of "stew", more frantic still)* I have to get it in the fire to cook if I'm going to get this dinner done on time!

Martha quickly crosses to the fireplace. As she does, she trips or otherwise is thrown off balance and drops everything and spills the contents of the pot into the fire.

Martha: Oh no! My stew is ruined! *(picks up pot and crosses back to the table, upset)* I'm going to have to start all over again. This never would've happened if Mary had been helping me. She sat there by Jesus's side all day, while I've been running around doing everything! *(angrily)* Well, I've had enough. Maybe Jesus will help convince her to help out around here a little more. *(crosses to side of the room and calls out)* Lord, don't you care that my sister left me to do all the work alone? Tell her to help me!

Jesus: *(offstage)* Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the best part; it will not be taken away from her.

Martha: *(turns back to children, surprised)* Mary has chosen the best part? *(thinks for a moment, realizes)* All day I've been worried about making sure the house is clean and the dinner is perfect, and all Jesus wanted me to do was listen to his teachings. Here I was, getting madder and madder at my sister, when she was the one who was doing what Jesus wanted all along. *(nods, in understanding)* I can see now that it's important to listen to what God wants from us, because he has a plan

“Step Inside the Home of Mary and Martha”

for our lives and knows what’s best. I’m going to do a better job of listening in the future. How about the rest of you? *(waits for response)* Great. Let’s take a moment to pray and to let God know that we’re listening. *(closes eyes and folds her hands in prayer)* Dear God, sometimes we get busy living our lives each day that we forget to stop and listen to what you are trying to tell us. We promise to try harder to hear your words and to live out the plan you have for each of us. Thank you for always being there for us when we listen. Amen. *(looks up)* Well, the stew might be ruined but I’ll just figure out the dinner later. *(thinks)* Hmm...maybe I’ll order one of those pizzas *(or other food)* you were talking about. *(chuckles)* I don’t know about you, but I’m ready to go listen to what Jesus has to say. Let’s go!

Helps children exit. End of scene.