

Sit at Jesus' Feet Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. In what settings do you do your best thinking?
2. Describe one school teacher who positively influenced you.

Read the following passage: Luke 10:38-41.

In the ancient world, showing hospitality was a major cultural expectation. Martha is feeling the weight of this responsibility and is clearly bothered by the lack of help she is receiving from Mary. When Martha attempts to enlist Jesus to persuade Mary to help prepare the meal, Jesus gently responds that Mary has chosen what is better. Although showing hospitality was clearly important, Mary saw the even greater importance of sitting at Jesus' feet. Mary, against cultural expectations and despite the distractions of the moment, took the posture of a disciple.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Luke writes that Martha was “distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.” Martha was distracted by what were arguably very legitimate concerns. What “distractions,” from the most important to the virtually trivial, most often keep you from spending time with God?
2. Do you think we wear our degree of “busy-ness” like a badge of importance or significance? If so, why do you think this is the case?
3. Does the following quote resonate with your observations of our culture? Explain. How might our obsession with success impact our commitment to being a disciple of Jesus Christ?

In former times, when our self-regard was more rooted in social roles, there was much less value placed on competitive achievement. Rising from rags to riches was nice but rare and optional. It was quite sufficient to be a good father or mother, son or daughter, and to be conscientious and diligent in all your work and duties. Today, as Alain de Botton has written, we believe in the meritocracy, that anyone who is of humble means is so only because of a lack of ambition and savvy. It is an embarrassment now to be merely faithful and not successful. This is a new weight on the soul, put there by modernity. Success or failure is now seen as the individual's responsibility alone. ...

All this produces a pressure and anxiety beyond what our ancestors knew.

Timothy Keller, *Making Sense of God*

4. We are exposed to hundreds of cultural voices in the form of news stories, social media, podcasts, radio personalities, television shows, movies, books, music, and countless others. What voices are currently influencing your thoughts and perceptions?
5. Do you have a regular plan for reading the Bible? Explain.
6. Do you use any tools to help you understand the Bible? Explain.
7. Do you pray regularly? If so, when and where? What do you usually pray about?
8. What is one way you can practically live as a disciple of Jesus this week?

Pray