

**SERIES: EXAMPLES**  
**LESSON 4—MARY’S EXAMPLE**

**Bible Reference:** Luke 10:38-42, John 11:32, John 12:1-8

**Key Verse:** Psalm 37:7a—“Be silent before the Lord and wait expectantly for Him...” (HSCB)

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

-Craft items

*NOTE: Before you begin, be sure to meet any students who came as friends of children in your class as a part of “Project Andrew.” Be aware that some of these friends may not be used to being in church. If you have a new student in your small group today, be sure to emphasize the plan of salvation in the colors that are represented in today’s craft. This would also be a good time to share your salvation testimony with your students.*

**OPENING ACTIVITY**

SAY: This month we are talking about people from the Bible who are examples for us.

ASK: **Can people be both good examples and bad examples?** (Yes. There are both kinds in the Bible.)

ASK: **Who are some Bible characters that you would say are BAD examples—in other words, by looking at their lives, we learn what NOT to do?** (Take several answers.)

ASK: **Who are some Bible characters that you would say are GOOD examples—in other words, by looking at their lives, we learn what to do?** (Take several answers.)

SAY: Today we’ll be learning about a person named Mary. There are several Mary’s in the Bible.

ASK: **Can anybody tell me about any of the Mary’s in the Bible?**

SAY: Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the most well-know but today we’re talking about a DIFFERENT Mary. She is only in three Bible stories but in all three I want you to watch for something she’s doing that similar.

## BIBLE LESSON

*(Based on Luke 10:38-42, John 11:17-37, John 12:1-8)*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Today's Bible lesson will be taught in a different way. Since there are three separate stories having to do with Mary, divide your class into three groups. Assign each group one of the three stories to read and discuss. Then help your students discover the best way to act out the story using as many of the students who are willing. Keep in mind that all three stories happened when a crowd was present. If there aren't enough parts for all the kids and more want to participate, let them be a part of the crowd.

-Assign Group #1 to develop a drama that presents **Luke 10:38-42**

-Assign Group #2 to develop a drama that presents **John 11:17-37** *(Be sure to explain what happened before and after these verses—that Lazarus was ill and they had sent Jesus word of his sickness and that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead following these verses.)*

-Assign Group #3 to develop a drama that presents **John 12:1-8**

*Give your groups a time limit. When they are done, remind your students as they watch to show the respect for each group that they will want the others to show for them.*

**IMPORTANT:** After each drama, briefly summarize what happened. For example:

**SAY: Luke 10:38-42**—the difference between Martha and Mary lies in what was important to them. Martha's priority was to get things done, to make sure that everything was ready. Mary's priority was to sit at Jesus' feet and to learn about Him. Martha was worried and bothered but Mary was at the feet of Jesus.

**ASK: What is the one thing that Jesus was talking about, the one thing that really matters in life?** (The one thing that matters is what Mary had chosen—Him. The most important thing in your life is your relationship with Jesus.)

**SAY: John 11:32**—Mary's brother, Lazarus, became sick. Word came to Jesus that he was ill and yet Jesus remained where He was for two days instead of leaving to heal him. Before leaving He told His disciples that Lazarus was dead. As Jesus approached the town, Martha came out to meet Him saying, *"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died..." (John 11: 21)*. But Mary stayed at the house. Jesus comforted Martha and told her that He is the *"resurrection and the life"* (v. 25). Then Martha went back to the house to tell Mary that Jesus wanted to see her. Mary quickly arose and went out to meet Him, saying the same thing her sister had. They spoke and then Jesus raised Lazarus, her brother, from the dead.

**SAY: Luke 10:38-42**—Jews had a custom of reclining at the table, instead of sitting at the table, to eat. Guests usually reclined on divans with their heads near the table. They leaned on cushions with one arm and ate with the other. Their feet would project at the end of the divan away from the table (for obvious reasons). Mary could have easily slipped from her place, walked around the others, and reached down to pour the perfume on Jesus' feet.

**SAY:** Perfume was very costly in Jesus' day because it had to be imported. In fact it was one of the ways of that people made investments because it occupied a small

place, was portable, and was easily negotiable in the open market. The cost of Mary's perfume was three hundred denarii, approximately a year's salary for the average worker. Today it would be the equivalent of \$30,000 to \$50,000. She presented it as an offering of love and gratitude after Jesus had raised her brother from the dead. Then she wiped his feet with her hair. This was a gesture of the deepest devotion and reverence.

When all the skits are finished, ASK: **Of what do you think Mary is a good example?**

ASK: **What is Mary doing in each of these stories?**

SAY: There are only three stories in the Bible where Mary is specifically pictured and in all three she is found in the same place—at the feet of Jesus.

-In the first story, she sits at the feet of Jesus to learn—her heart says, “I want You.”

-In the second story, she falls at the feet of Jesus in grief—her heart says, “I need You.”

-In the third story, she bows at His feet in adoration—her heart says, “I love You.”

SAY: This week we want to challenge you to be like Mary—to be at “Jesus’ feet” —to spend time with Jesus. In other words, go to Him this week to LEARN from Him, to LEAVE your cares and concerns with Him, and to LOVE Him.

ASK: What are ways you can spend time with Jesus? (Praying, reading the Bible, reading the Bible with your parents, etc.)

SAY: Spend time with Jesus this week...and be sure also to spend time finding someone to invite to church next Sunday.

**KEY VERSE**

SAY: We're going to take one minute to be totally silent. Listen for all the sounds that you can hear. Ready...go.

ASK: **What are some of the things you heard?**

ASK: **Would you have heard these things if you had been busy and on the go?**

SAY: When you stop and are quiet sometimes you hear things that you would have missed if you had been busy and distracted. It's just like Mary and Martha—most people are like Martha and because they are so worried and distracted by so many things, they don't stop to listen to what God wants to say to them. But Mary choose what was better—to spend time at Jesus feet, listening and learning from Him.

**Read Psalm 37:7a from your Bible**

ASK: **What does this verse mean?**

ASK: **Why might someone "wait" for the Lord? How are they waiting?** (They are waiting expectantly. In other words, they are expecting something to happen.)

REPEAT after Me: "I Can / Live for Jesus / All this Year / And Spend Time with Jesus Everyday!"

SAY: Be like Mary, not Martha—Spend time "at Jesus' feet" learning from Him, listening to Him and leaving your cares with Him and loving Him.

**Dismiss to Small Groups**

*DUE TO THE NATURE OF TODAY'S CRAFT, you might want to explain the rules of the craft and game before dismissing your students.*

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I'm going to dismiss you one row at a time. We'll be in our small groups for a little while and then we'll come back together as a large group again.

*Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.*

# Pick-Up Sticks

## **SMALL GROUPS**

*Alongside today's craft, let your students also complete their Match Cross crafts, if they haven't already finished.*

SAY: Today we're going to make a game of "Pick-up Sticks" that you can take home but this game comes with a few rules too—not only about how to play the game but also what NOT to do with the items we'll be giving you today.

SAY: You will get 13 wooden skewers. You're going to color these—Two will be black, two red, two white (or uncolored), two blue, two green, two yellow and one will be purple. These colors represent a few things we want you to remember.

### **BIG RULE:**

To make this game we'll be using what are called "skewers." These are long, thin pieces of wood with a point on the end. **DO NOT POKE THESE AT OR TOWARD ANYONE.** This rule is for both now and at your home. If you break this rule in class, we will immediately take your game away. Also, when you see your mom and dad, show them your game and make sure they know what you have. The last rule is: Never run with anything sharp (like this) in your hand.

**RULES of PLAY:** To play the game you hold all 13 sticks straight up in your fist with the bottom tips of them touching the table or floor. They should all be pointing in the air. When you open your hand, they will all fall different directions. Some will land on top of others. Some will land by themselves. The object of the game is for you to end up with more sticks than your opponent. The player who didn't hold the sticks to begin the game goes first. His job is to pick up a stick without causing any of the others to move. If he can successfully get one, it becomes his. However, if he moves or even slightly moves another stick, then his turn is over and his opponent's turn begins. If he does get a stick, he gets another turn. You can only use your fingers to pick up the sticks unless you recover the purple stick. If you have the purple stick, then you can use it to drag or push sticks away so that you can more easily pick them up. Keep playing until all the sticks have been reclaimed. Whoever has the most sticks at the end of the game wins.

### **NOTE TO TEACHERS:**

- (1) If you don't trust that your students can have skewers with points as a part of your craft, have your students cut the tips off. A point at the end of the purple one does help to play the game.
- (2) If a student breaks the rule, do not hesitate to take his items away. Student need to know that we have rules and that there are consequences when they break the rules—this is a great life-lesson. Be fair and consistent in following through with what you say.
- (3) You may want to go over the rules before dismissing them to their small groups.

#### THE EXPLAIN THE COLORS & THE MEANING:

The colors represent God's Plan of Salvation

BLACK—represents our sin that separates us from God

RED—represents how Jesus bled, died and rose again to save us

WHITE—represents how Jesus can take our sins away and make us pure

BLUE—represents faith and following God. Baptism is a way of following God too

GREEN—represents growing with Jesus every day

YELLOW—represents Heaven and how we can know for sure that we can be with Jesus forever if we have given our lives to Him

PURPLE—represents the royal privilege of being able to share Jesus with others.

This is the reason that that purple stick is the one we use in the game to reach others.

KEY POINT: Today ends our series on examples and we want to end with you knowing that the kind of example that you are affects other people. The challenge of Pick-Up Sticks is to move one stick without affecting the others. In life, the way you live—the things you say, the things you do—your example will affect other people. So live for Jesus every day and share Him with others.

#### EXTRA TIME:

Some students will finish more quickly than others. When someone finishes for the day, give them a piece of white cardstock and ask them to make an appreciation card for someone who is a godly example in their lives.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

*If you want and have time, you can make this a competition and keep score.*

Story #1 (*Luke 10:38-42*)

- What was the name of Mary's sister? (Martha)
- What was Martha busy doing?
- What was Mary doing?
- What request did Martha give Jesus?
- What was Jesus' response to Mary and the others? What does this show about God's heart?
- Who are you more like—Martha or Mary? Why? Are you worried and bothered about so many things or do you find yourself being caught up and still at the feet of Jesus?

Story #2 (*John 11:17-37*)

- What was the name of Mary's brother? (Lazarus)
- Why did Martha and Mary send word to Jesus? (Lazarus was ill)
- How was Lazarus when Jesus arrived?
- What did Mary do when she came to Jesus?
- What did Mary and Martha both say to Jesus when He arrived? ("If you had been here my brother would not have died.")

Story #3 (*John 12:1-8*)

- What did Mary do to show her adoration for Jesus?
- Why do you think she did this? (Because she loved Jesus—probably also in gratitude for Him raising Lazarus from the dead.)
- Which disciple complained about this? (Judas Iscariot)
- What did Jesus say to him?
- What else does this story tell us about Judas? What kind of an example was he?
- How would you say that your heart and life compare to Mary's?

*Congratulate your students on how well they listened and learned today.*

## **PRAYER PART**

**ASK: What do people pray about?**

**ASK: What do you like to pray about?**

**SAY:** Many people spend most of their time praying for things. God wants us to lay our cares at His feet but prayer is so much more than just making requests. Prayer is a conversation with God. You can give thanks, praise Him, and tell Him how awesome He is. You can take time to listen, pray for other people, ask God questions, ask for forgiveness and so much more.

Before we pray today, we're going to take a moment of silence and I want you to simply talk to God—don't make any request right now. Just tell God how great He is or thank Him for something specific or just tell Him about something you learned today.

*After a few minutes, read the prayer requests that have been turned in at the Prayer Request box and take other prayer requests from your class, if you have time.*

*Ask if a volunteer would like to pray for your class today.*

## **EXTRA TIME**

If you finish early, let your kids resume their work on their crafts for the day or work on appreciation cards for people who are godly examples to them—even if they've already made one card, they can make more for other "good examples" in their lives.