

Table Manners: Martha

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July 14, 2019

**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**The people of the Bible were real trying to navigate life – just like you and me**

We can see pieces of ourselves in the story of the Bible and the individuals who lived it.

\*When has the Bible and the people in it become most real to you? How have you seen yourself woven into the story?

**Martha and others like her are empathetic, sincere, generous, friendly and self-sacrificing**

She could be meddling or intrusive, a people – pleaser, sometimes busy instead of serving and too proud to receive help.

\*Do you see yourself or someone you know in Martha?

\*What positive and negative characteristics do you resonate with?

**Martha and others like her could greatly benefit from recognizing the ‘one thing that is necessary’ of and leaning into this verse**

**1 Peter 4:9-11 (NIV)**

*<sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

\*What does this verse say to you? How could it be helpful to someone like Martha?

\*What helps you slow down and see Him in the moments, to be fully present?

**People like Martha need us to help them find the ‘one thing’ and permission to ask for help**

\*What is great and helpful about having someone like Martha at the table?

\*What can be frustrating about sitting with her?

**Peter – focused on freedom and adventure**

**Paul – focused on doing good and being good**

**Joseph – focused on the desire to be unique**

**Rebekah – focused on loyalty and security**

**Jacob – focused on success and accomplishments**

**Deborah – focused on power and justice**

**Martha – focused on helping and being indispensable**

\*What conflicts could arise between a Martha type and some of these others?

\*How could this type benefit one of the other personalities we’ve talked about?