

Rotation 5, 2007 - 2008
Jesus Brings a New Day to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
4 weeks – January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2008

Yearly Theme: Faith in Christ for a New Day

Jesus' ministry was a combination of words and actions, teaching and miracles. Everywhere Jesus changed lives by bringing the good news of God's love and forgiveness for all people. It was a new day for the blind who could now see, the lame who could now walk, and the lepers who could now rejoin their families and communities. People who were shunned were accepted and sinners were welcomed. As Jesus walked through the land of Galilee and Judea teaching and preaching, he made personal friends and enjoyed the hospitality of their home. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were siblings who lived in Bethany, just 2 miles from Jerusalem. They loved Jesus and welcomed him into their home. Luke records Jesus' "teachable moment" with Mary and Martha when Martha complained that Mary only sat listening to Jesus while she busily worked to serve him. John records the illness and death of Lazarus, when Jesus performed one of his most touching miracles. Jesus truly brought a new day to this family, not by doing what the sisters wished for, but by doing something far beyond what they could imagine! Jesus asked the sisters, and he asks us, "Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this?"

Scripture References: Luke 10:38-42, John 11, John 12:1-11

Memory Verse: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25

Jesus said, "There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:42

Learning Goals: The children will learn:

1. Jesus had good friends whom he loved very much, like Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
2. Although Jesus taught his followers to serve others, he said that "the one thing" worth being concerned about is to sit with Jesus and learn from him.
3. Jesus has deep compassion for those who are living with pain and sorrow.
4. God's purposes are so much larger than ours, so we do not always know how God is working in the world. We can only trust the love of God.
5. By raising Lazarus, Jesus showed that he has power over death and brings life where death and hopelessness once ruled.
6. Jesus comes with surprising new life where and when we least expect it!
7. Jesus calls us to have faith in him as the Son of God, and gives us eternal life even though we die.

Life Application:

1. Jesus loves me just like he loved his friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
2. Jesus wants the Number One priority in my life to be my relationship with him and learning from him.
3. What would I do if Jesus were to visit me? Jesus teaches that caring for the poor and lonely is just like caring for him!
4. Jesus feels a deep sadness for people when they are hurting or sad.
5. Jesus is the Son of God, my Savior, who died to give me life with him forever.
6. God is working in the world in ways I do not always understand, but I can always trust God's love.
7. God has power over death so that even though I will some day die, I will have life with Jesus forever. God is stronger than death!
8. God can take sad things in my life and make good and wonderful things come from them.

Rotation Overview:

Activity	Room	Description	Teacher 8:45/10:15
Craft	Room 7	The One Thing – Bible backpacks	Doris Linnerooth / Sue Rowen
Video	Youth Room	“Martin the Cobbler” DVD	Barb Steffenson / Sharon Skogen
Computer	Room 4	“Life of Christ” #26 & # 27	Chris Hobrough / Joe Zoborowski
Cooking	Room 5	“Lazarus, Come Out!” breakfast	Chris Hobrough / Linda Thueson
Storytelling	Room 6	Children meet Mary, Martha, Jesus, & Lazarus	Sandy & Gary Nelson and Guy & Donelle Becker / Gary & Brie McIntyre and Tom & Maddie Myers
Puppets	Patio Room	Children use Puppets to act the story of Jesus, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus	Deb Wheeler / Carrie Berg and Christine

Background:

Christmas was a New Day for our world, because God became a human being. It was a surprising event because no one expected the God-man to be born as a poor, insignificant, child. But when this child grew up he began a ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing that left no one in doubt that this man was different. Jesus entered the synagogues and began to preach with authority. Jesus taught on the hillsides and at the seashore. He healed the lame and sick wherever he went. Jesus’ ministry was the breaking in of a new day, a new Kingdom, the Kingdom of God. And Jesus’ ministry necessitated a response – believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, or if not, Jesus must be a blasphemer and trouble-maker.

Jesus had no home of his own, but wandered through the land of Israel with his disciples, bringing the message of God’s Kingdom. Among the people that followed Jesus, he made friends. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were siblings who dearly loved Jesus, and invited him into their home in Bethany, just 2 miles east of Jerusalem. Their hospitality must have warmed Jesus’ heart, and given him a refuge from the crowds and the angry Jewish leaders. Scripture records three incidents involving Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. We first meet the sisters in Luke 10:38-42. Martha welcomed Jesus into her home and busied herself with dinner preparations. Mary, on the other hand, sat down at the feet of Jesus, listening to his teaching. Martha became aggravated and asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her. But Jesus affectionately rebuked Martha, and explained that there is only one thing that is most important – what Mary was doing – which would not be taken away.

The next story of the three siblings is recorded in John 11. The chapter begins with the news that Lazarus is sick, so the sisters sent word to Jesus, who had retreated to the other side of the Jordan River when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem tried to stone him. The sisters no doubt believed that Jesus would come and heal their beloved brother, just as he had healed so many others. But oddly, Jesus does not immediately travel to Bethany. Only after two days did he announce to his disciples that they would travel to Lazarus. The disciples were well aware of the danger of heading back to Judea. Just days ago those people tried to kill Jesus. The disciples were certain that Jesus was walking into great danger. And Jesus knew what was about to happen as well. Jesus knew that he was returning to Judea to die.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Martha ran to meet Jesus with the sorrowful words, “If only you had been here...” Jesus responded with the great words of promise to all Christians, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me

will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (our memory verse). Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?" Martha responded with her testimony, "Yes, Lord. I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God..." Mary ran to Jesus with the same question, "Lord, if only you had been here..." John records that Jesus became very angry when he saw the terrible consequences that death thrust on his friends. Jesus' anger was so great that his face turned red! He saw their sorrow and anguish, and was brought to tears. The heart of Jesus must have ached with compassion for his friends. Then he was brought to the tomb, where he commanded that the stone be rolled away. The ever practical Martha objected when she realized that a body decomposing for 4 days would smell. But Jesus reminded her that he had promised she would see God's glory if she believed. Jesus called, "Lazarus, come out!" At the sound of Jesus' voice, the dead body bound in grave clothes walked out of the cave. Imagine the gasp when the sisters and group of mourners saw the dead man walking! Jesus had healed Lazarus in a way his sisters could never have imagined!

It was a large crowd that witnessed this miracle; some saw and believed, while others ran with the news to the Pharisees. The Jewish leaders agreed it was better for one man to die than the whole nation to rise in revolt and be squashed by the Romans. So the Jewish leaders plotted Jesus' death and publicly ordered anyone to report his movements so he could be arrested.

Lazarus' life and Jesus' death were intimately connected. Jesus understood that publicly raising Lazarus would lead to his own death. But Jesus understood it was his mission to give his life for the world. Jesus lived the will of his father, and willingly died so that those who believe in him would have eternal life. Jesus showed the world that he had power over death when he raised Lazarus. But Lazarus still had a human body that would die a second time. Soon Jesus would die and conquer death and be raised to new life – not a life that would end in death once more, but a new life with a new body. Jesus is the resurrection and the life! Jesus is our promise of eternal life for all those who believe.

The third incident involving the siblings is recorded in John 12. Six days before Passover, Jesus was invited to their home. Martha prepared dinner, Lazarus ate with Jesus, and Mary did something very out of the ordinary. She poured some very expensive nard perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped it with her hair. Judas argued that the money should have been given to the poor, but Jesus replied that Mary had anointed him for burial. Jesus knew the time of his death was near. People flocked to see Jesus and Lazarus, and many people believed in Jesus because of Lazarus. It was then that the Jewish leaders plotted to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus. This is the last time we hear of this family who were such dear friends of Jesus.

The stories of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus allow us to see Jesus as a man, filled with affection and emotion. We also see Jesus as the Son of God who has power over death. Most of all we see a Messiah who understands it is the Father's will that he die to bring life to all those who believe in him. Jesus chooses to live in the Father's will and brings the promise of resurrection and life to all who believe. Jesus' love is so great that nothing can separate his love from us. Jesus wants our first priority in life to be our love relationship with him – sitting at his feet, listening to his words, and cultivating our heart to love like he does. Jesus asks us, just like he did Mary and Martha, "do you believe that I have to come to give you life?" Jesus calls us to have faith in him, faith that he is life and resurrection, and that he is bringing us a new day like no other!

Multiple Intelligence Check List

	Verbal/ Ling	Logic/ Math	Spatial/ Visual	Bodily/kin	Musical	Interpersl	Intrapersl	Natur- alist
Craft	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Video	x				x		x	
Computer	x	x	x				x	
Cooking	x	x	x	x		x		x
Puppets	x	x	x	x		x		
Storytelling	x	x	x	x		x	x	x

Rotation 5, 2007-8: Jesus Brings a New Day to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

Workshop	Jan 6	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27
Room 7 – Craft	1	4	3	5
Youth Room - Video	4	5	2	1
Room 6 - Storytelling	2	1	5	3
Room 5 – Cooking	½ 3	½ 3	½ 4	½ 4
Room 4 - Computers	½ 3	½ 3	½ 4	½ 4
Patio Room – Puppets	5	2	1	2 (Cooking)