

HOME GROUP

17th June

Jesus & Martha

Discussion starter: Have you ever had a meeting with someone which has changed the course of the rest of your life in a positive way?

Read Luke 10:38-42

At the Home of Martha and Mary

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (NIV)

Optional extra: Let someone in your group retell this story in their own words. This is a good exercise in 'allowing stories to be stories'.

- 1.** What 'world' does Jesus encounter in his interaction with Mary and Martha? In what ways are Jesus's words to Martha- "You are worried and upset about many things"- a good description of our own lives? *You might like to think about the biographies referred to by Peter on Sunday evening (see overleaf).*
- 2.** How does Jesus present a different (and more beautiful) reality? What does that tell you about the work that He has come to do in the world?
- 3.** Jesus tells Martha "Few things are needed- or indeed only one" (v.42). What does he mean by this and how does this challenge our priorities? What will it look like for us to listen to Jesus's words this week? What is the precious promise at the end of our passage for those sitting at the feet of Jesus?

Prayer: Pray for one another, that we would 'choose what is better' (v.42) and delight to sit under Jesus's word this week.

Fictional Bios

Leila – Ambition

Leila's a student by day, Etsy seller by night. She's building a brand, chasing grades, posting reels at 1 a.m. "Make it now, rest later," she tells herself. But sleep slips. Friendships fade. Even joy starts feeling like a job. Her life looks shiny online - but she can't remember the last time she felt real peace.

Stuart – Pressure

Stuart's the rock. Mortgage paid. Boss pleased. Kids in bed, by eight. But the weight never lifts. His phone buzzes before breakfast. Meetings bleed into meals. He hasn't taken a breath that isn't scheduled. Everyone says he's doing great - he just feels done. Pressure isn't crushing him. It's quietly hollowing him out from the inside.

Amira – Busyness

Amira's the woman who gets it done. Promotions. Marathons. Church rotas. Birthday cakes, from scratch. She's constantly applauded - but behind her smile is a ticking clock. She can't stop. Slowing down feels like a failure to her reputation. She's so full of doing, there's no space left for being. Her calendar's packed, but her heart feels strangely absent.