

**Daily Bible Readings:**

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 10:38-42	Only one thing needed
Monday	Ecclesiastes 2:17-26	Wisdom about work
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:1-6	Listen, and eat what is good
Wednesday	2 Peter 1:3-11	Everything we need has been given
Thursday	Matthew 6:25-33	Do not worry
Friday	Philippians 4:6-9	Do not be anxious
Saturday	Psalms 127	Unless the Lord builds the house
Sunday	Luke 11:1-13	Jesus teaches about prayer

**Scripture Verses for the Week:**

God was pleased to bring all things back to himself because of what Christ has done. That includes all things on earth and in heaven. God made peace through Christ's blood, through his death on the cross.  
– Colossians 1:20 (NIRV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

**Prayer for this Week:**

Lord God, thank you for making peace with me. Please keep my faith in you steady and firm. Amen. (Colossians 1:22-23)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Lord Jesus, teach me to look to you for everything I need. Amen. (Luke 10:41-42)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*Child of God, may Jesus calm all your worries. May he give you a faith that is steady and firm. Amen.*

**Mealtime Refrain:**

Christ existed before anything else:  
**He holds all creation together.** (Colossians 1:17)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*God, bless the food that here we see.  
God bless you, and God bless me. Amen.*

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## Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- How are the members of your household (or group) alike in personality? How are you different?
- When Jesus visited Mary's house, Martha was busy working, while Mary sat listening to Jesus. Jesus said that Mary had chosen what was better. What do you think he meant?
- When do you set aside time to listen to Jesus?

## Devotional Practices:

Jesus said to Martha "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed" (Luke 10:41). In your home devotion times this week share any worries that are on your minds. Pray about these concerns, asking God to care for you and give you his peace. Say together these words from Philippians 4:6-7 – *'Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.'*

## Service:

Two of Sunday's readings illustrate excellent hospitality. Abraham and Sarah treated their guests like royalty (Genesis 18:1-8). Mary welcomed Jesus with her undivided attention (Luke 10:38-39). Make plans to show hospitality to someone in your home. Think of someone outside of your usual circle of relatives and friends to invite to your home.

## Rituals and Traditions:

Even when we are busy we, like Mary, need to take time to listen to Jesus. If you're not in the household practice of taking a few moments each day to hear God speak to you, then why not try to do so this week? Decide on a time each day when all of your household will be available – perhaps before or after breakfast, or at dinner time. Set an alarm or give someone the responsibility to gather the household together. Try this simple format: (a) Share about the events of the day; (b) Read a short passage of Scripture or a bible story; (c) Talk about the meaning of the story or passage for your lives at the moment; (d) Reflecting on what you have heard, conclude with prayer.

## Parent Toolbox: Taking Time to Listen

Most of our lives are a combination of Martha and Mary – of active busyness and quiet reflection. But if our lives are all-Martha-all-the-time, they may be out of balance. We may be missing "the better part." Does your household life need more Mary-like listening? Do you make time to listen to one another? To Jesus? What is one thing you could change, start doing or stop doing so that you have more time for listening to God and to one another?

