

SMALL GROUPS

Small Group Discussion Week of May 29th, 2011 W: Great Women of the Bible “Two Roads to Intimacy” (Martha and Mary)

1. Tell about a woman you know who spends consistent time with Jesus in prayer, Bible reading, and quiet time with the Savior. How does her faith inspire you to walk more closely with Jesus?
2. Tell about a woman you know who serves others (in the name of Jesus) with consistent passion and joy. How does her love for God and people inspire you to live more for Jesus?

Read: John 11:17-37

3. What traits and characteristics do you see in Mary and Martha and what do they have in common, with life and in their attitudes?

Read: Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:2

4. How are Mary and Martha different and what do we learn about drawing near to God through the lives of these two women?
5. Mary was more prone to sit quietly at the feet of Jesus and worship in His presence. Martha was quicker to cook a meal or prepare the house to serve Jesus. Are you quicker to sit at the feet of Jesus or spend time serving Jesus (or serve someone in the name of Jesus) and what does this look like as you walk through a normal day?
6. Jesus is clear that sitting at His feet, worshipping Him, and learning from Him must come first...everything else can then follow. What are some of the things that tend to get in the way of you making time and space to sit at the feet of Jesus? What can you do to make this space in your day, even when it is challenging?
7. Talk about practical ways we can grow closer to Jesus through each of these expressions of sitting at His feet:
 - Being quiet and slowing down, focus on the Savior...
 - Digging into the truth of God's Word, the Bible...
 - Talking with God in prayer (and listening)...
 - Living for Jesus in the flow of your day...
8. Identify one pathway that fits you and how you see yourself connecting with God through this pathway: **Naturalist** (meeting God in creation), **Activist** (meeting God through action), **Caregiver** (meeting God as you serve others), **Intellectuals** (connecting with God through study), **Contemplative** (meeting God through quiet reflection).