

JOANNA WEAVER

Best-Selling Author of Having a Mary Spirit

Having a
Mary Heart
in a Martha
World

STUDY GUIDE

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Finding Intimacy with God
in the
Busyness of Life

JOANNA WEAVER



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Letter from Joanna

ith so many wonderful Bible studies available, I'm honored that you have chosen my book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy with God in the Busyness of Life.*

When my publisher suggested I expand the original Bible study and add video sessions, I was excited! After spending so long thinking about and studying the lives of Mary and Martha, two sisters Jesus considered dear friends, I'm delighted to share with you what I've learned. From their encounter with the Savior, I believe we can discover rich insights and deep truths that have the power to change our lives.

For God longs for relationship with you, my friend. It is the purpose for which you and I were made. And it is the purpose for which Jesus came to earth—so that, through His death and resurrection, we might be reconciled to a Father who loves us more than we could ever imagine. A Father who has provided everything necessary so that you and I could daily experience His presence. Right here and right now. Smack dab in the busyness of life.

I'm excited to take this journey with you. Something beautiful happens when we take time to sit at Jesus' feet, individually and corporately. As we make ourselves available, He makes Himself known to us. As we pour out our hearts in sweet communion, Jesus pours His life into us.

So take off your apron and lay aside your duties for a while. Come enjoy the incredible invitation of friendship Jesus extended to Mary and Martha—and to you and me as well.

Come discover the secret to having a Mary heart in a Martha world.

Becoming His,



"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God."

JEREMIAH 24:7

How to Use This Study

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World—The Book

While you'll learn a great deal from watching the video sessions and completing the study guide homework, please be sure to read your assigned chapters in *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* prior to each week's discussion. The book provides the framework of this study and is necessary to your getting the most out of our time together.

As early in the study week as possible, you'll want to complete your assigned reading with a pen or highlighter in hand. I encourage you to mark or underline things that really speak to you—verses, quotes, stories, or analogies. Make notes in the book margins of any thoughts, questions, or revelations you'd like to discuss or share in class.

The Study Guide

After you've read the assigned portion in the book, begin to work through the questions and exercises in this guide. They are designed to help you reflect on God's Word and apply it. (Please note that I quote primarily from the 1984 edition of the New International Version, and most questions are shaped around that translation.)

Each week's lesson also includes:

- a "Word Time" sidebar. These are designed to give you tools to go
 deeper in your Bible study. Corresponding videos will be shown in
 class if there is time. (Videos can also be accessed at www.having
 amaryheart.com.)
- *a "Make a Plan" assignment.* Each week, you'll be encouraged to come up with action steps to apply the truths you've learned as you follow through on that plan during the upcoming week.

- *a memory verse*. Over the course of the study, you'll be asked to memorize nine verses. If that seems too overwhelming, choose two or three verses to focus on. Don't worry; I'll share some memorizing techniques that have helped me!
- *a video guide*. With fill-in-the-blank prompts, these pages help capture key points from the DVD session so that you can refer to them later.
- *a "Closing Time" reflection.* At the end of each lesson you'll have a chance to respond to what the Lord has impressed on your heart throughout the week and in the teaching session.

Note to Leaders

On the third DVD, you'll find a comprehensive Leader's Guide designed to help you navigate the special features of this study as well as get the most out of your weekly time together. Just print the pages, and place them in a three-ring binder for easy use. The Leader's Guide includes:

- practical advice for leading Bible studies
- a list of DVD content, including bonus features and how to use them
- session-by-session scripts to help you lead the discussion for a two-hour class (with modifications for a one-hour class); includes video prompts and other activities
- optional eleven- or twelve-week study format using Bonus Session video and other material
- optional Retreat Guide providing the tools you'll need to create a special event, including promotional materials, suggested activities, and lots more

The Leader's Guide can also be downloaded at www.havingamaryheart. com, where other study helps are available, including memory verses, promotional videos, publicity pieces, and website graphics. You can explore my other books and upcoming video curriculums as well.

If you have any questions, please send me an e-mail by clicking on the "contact Joanna" link at www.havingamaryheart.com. I hope you'll send me an e-mail to let me know when your group will be doing the study. I'd treasure the opportunity to pray for you and inform you when any new products or study resources become available. I'd also love to hear about any creative ideas you're using as well as what God is doing in your group.



Introduction

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

LUKE 10:38-39

aving a Mary heart in a Martha world?

Is it really possible? More than ever, I am convinced it is. Jesus wants to meet with you as surely as He met with Mary and Martha that long-ago day in Bethany. He wants to reveal Himself to you, filling you with His presence and His love so that His grace spills through you to a dry and thirsty world.

Though our initial introduction to Mary and Martha is only four verses long, I believe this brief story has the power to literally change our lives. So let's begin!

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 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!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38–42)

Theme Verse

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

MATTHEW 11:28

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Discussion Questions

	Discussion Questions
1.	Before we begin this study, what preconceived ideas do you have about Mary and Martha? Which woman do you relate to most—Mary or Martha? Explain your answer.
2.	One woman told me, "My life is like a blender—and it's stuck on frappe!" What inanimate object best describes how your life currently feels, and why?
3.	Read Matthew 11:28. What do Jesus' words mean to you?

Session One Video

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World



Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

REVELATION 3:20, NKJV

The Story of Mary and Martha—the Story of You and Me, Luke 10:38-42
The Living Room Intimacy God that we long for will never be found in Kitchen Service God.
Discovering the Better Part
1. Martha opened her home (Luke 10:38).
• preparations—diakonia —
 2. Mary opened her heart (Luke 10:39). • She made for time with Jesus. • She did the
• She to Jesus.
The same invitation Jesus made to Martha is the invitation He makes to us: "Come spend time with Me Allow My to fill your
life so that I can spill you to the world!"
ine so that I can spin you to the World!

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Closing Time

I sense the Lord saying...



Make a Plan

God desires to transform you by the power of His Word. He wants to speak specific things to your heart over the next several weeks. What one thing could you do to get the most out of this study?

Prayer Requests

This Week's Assignment

- Follow through with your week 1 "Make a Plan" homework.
- Read chapters 1 and 2 in Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World.
- Answer week 2 study questions.
- Memorize Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."



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