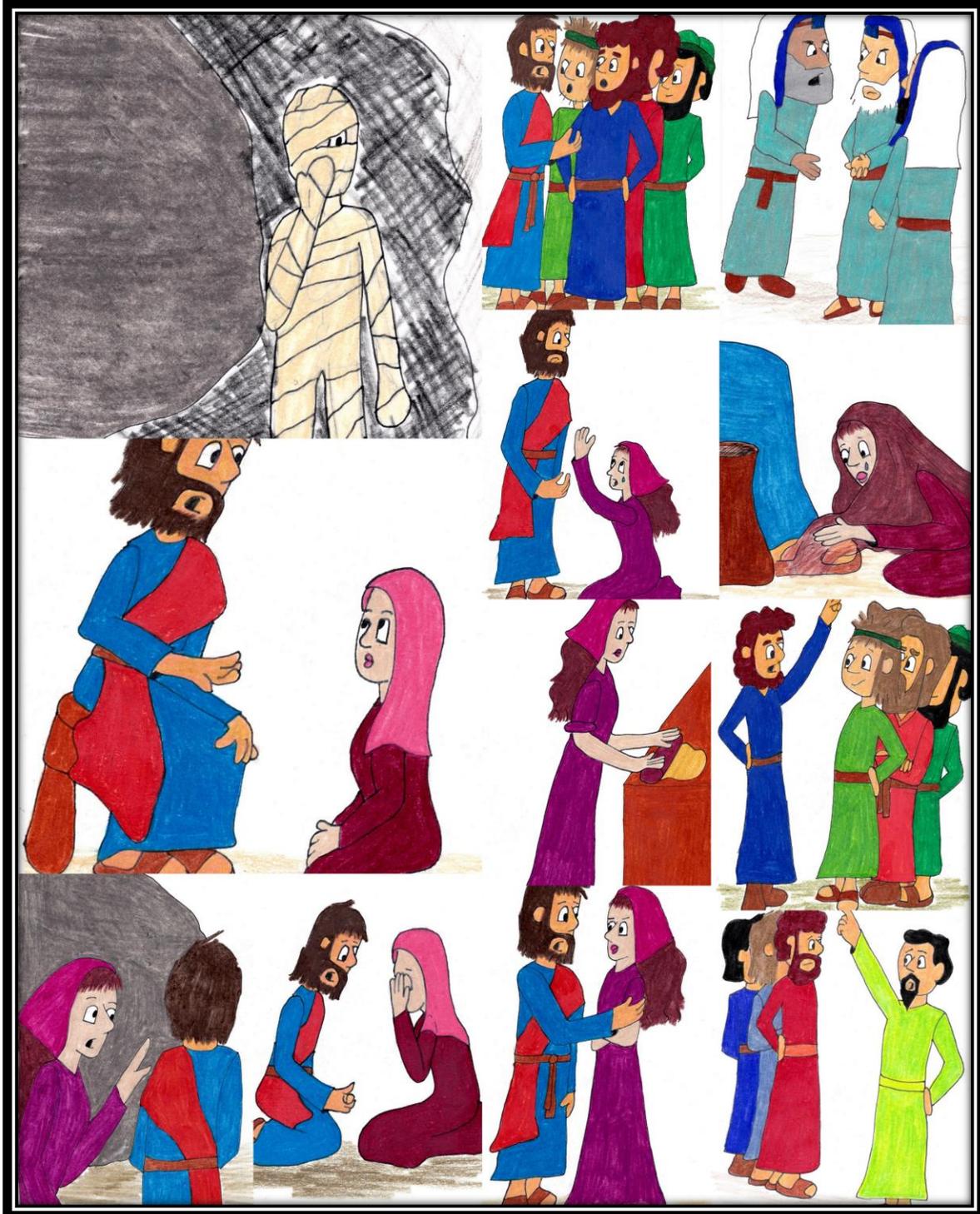


Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

Jesus' friends

Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-53; 12:1-11





Jesus traveled all over Judea teaching and performing miracles. One day he traveled to Bethany and was welcomed to the home of two sisters and a brother, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

Jesus came in and started to teach Lazarus and all of his guests. He taught about how to treat people, he taught what to do when someone has wronged you, and how to react when you're angry.

As Jesus taught, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to everything he said. She eagerly soaked it all up.



Meanwhile Martha was in the back of the house working on preparing food for their guests.

Annoyed she looked up and saw Mary just sitting there. “I am working hard,” she thought. “I am doing so much for this great teacher and she just sits there.” Finally she could not take it anymore.

Martha marched up to Jesus and demanded, “Tell my sister to help me.”



Jesus touched Martha's shoulder and smiled, "Martha, Martha, Martha. You are troubled by many things. You worry about what foods to serve and if there will be enough. It will be all right. Mary has chosen a good thing and I will not take it from her. Do you understand my child?"

"Yes Lord I do," Martha answered meekly. She finished her job, then sat down and listened to Jesus.

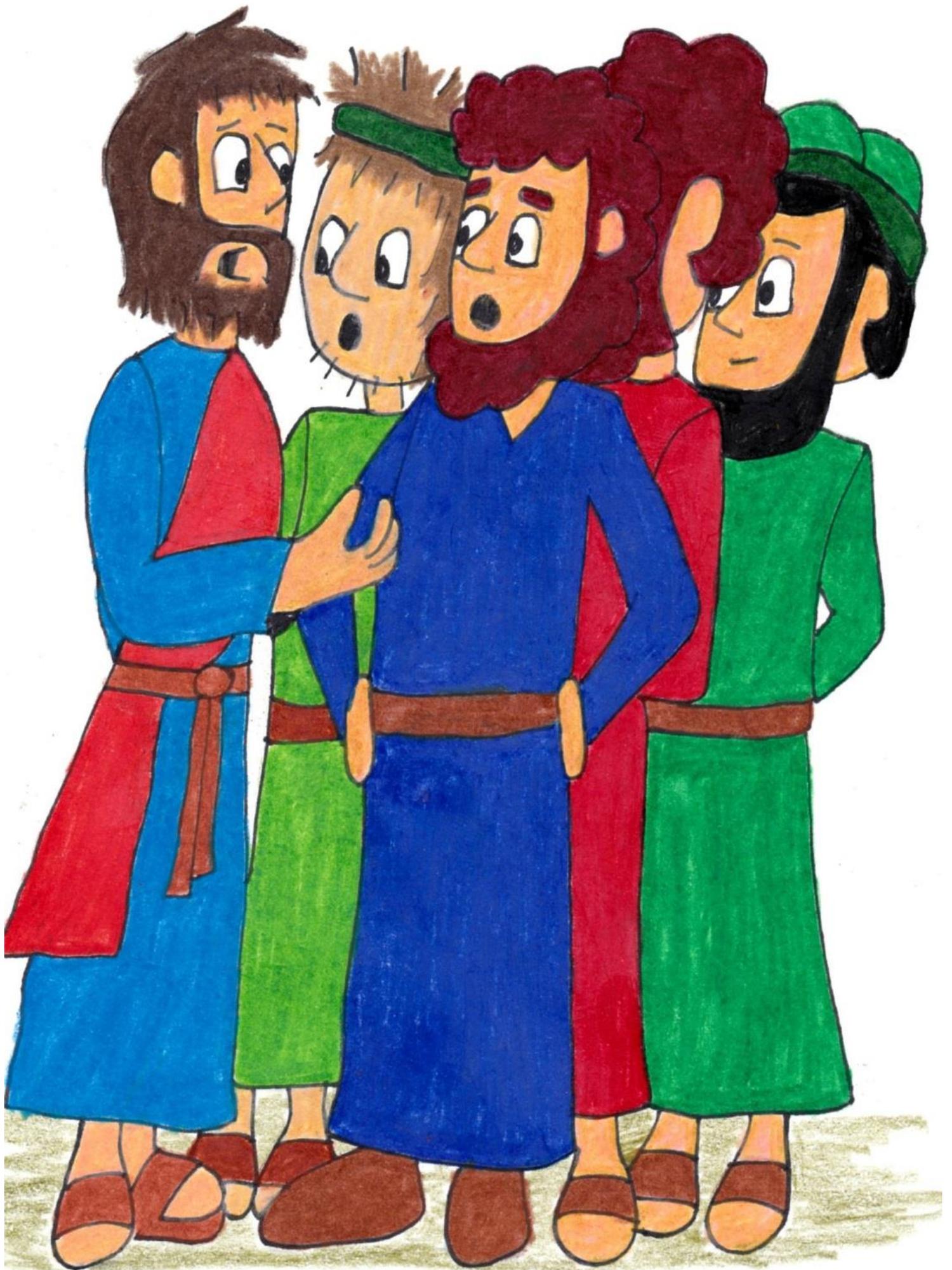


Sometime later, Jesus left Bethany and started to travel around Judea again. While he was gone Lazarus fell sick. Mary and Martha began to worry if he would get better.

Finally, they conferred and agreed to send word to Jesus. The messenger traveled far and delivered the message, “Lord, the man you love is ill.”

Jesus heard this news and said solemnly, “This sickness won’t end in death. It is for God’s glory and so that the Son of God will be glorified.”

The messenger heard the answer, but wasn’t sure what to do. The disciples looked at each other in confusion.



Jesus turned away from the messenger and went back to teaching. He continued to teach for two more days, and then finally turned to his disciples, “It is time to head back to Bethany.”

The disciples stared at Jesus in shock, “Really? They want to kill you there! Why go now?”

Jesus answered them, “Are there not twelve hours in a day? If you walk in the day, you will not stumble. If you walk at night, you will stumble because the light of the world is not in you.”

Jesus said this to mean HE was the light of the world, and if they followed him, they would be saved. But the disciples did not understand this.



“Lazarus is asleep, I need to wake him,” said Jesus.

“Lord?” they asked timidly, “If he’s asleep won’t he just wake up? Sleep is good for you when you’re sick.”

Jesus laughed softly, “Lazarus is dead. I am glad it has happened because now you can see and believe.”

Thomas turned to the others and said, “Let’s go to Bethany and die with him.”

They traveled on and went past Jerusalem up to Bethany. Finally they arrived just outside of town.



Many friends were with Mary and Martha consoling them and helping them through Lazarus' death.

Martha got word Jesus was in town and ran to meet him; Mary stayed at home and continued to mourn.

“Lord,” Martha cried falling at his feet. “If you had been here Lazarus would not have died, God will grant your requests.”

“Your brother will rise again,” Jesus said taking her hands.

“I know Lord, when the resurrection comes.”

“I AM the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Do you believe?” Jesus asked.

“I believe you are The Christ, the Son of God.”



“Go home,” Jesus instructed. “Bring Mary with you to me.”

Martha hurried to obey Jesus’ orders and quickly brought Mary with her. “All of the Jews who had gathered to mourn with Mary and Martha followed after them.

“They going to cry at the tomb!” they said, “We must follow.”

Mary fell at Jesus’ feet. “Lord if you’d been here, Lazarus would still be alive.”

Jesus was moved to sadness by her tears and cried out, “Where is his tomb?”

“Come and see,” Mary said leading the way.



Jesus got to the tomb and saw the large stone rolled in front and cried. He cried for his friend who had died, and for his friends still alive missing their brother. He cried because of the pain and suffering so many people had to go through.

All of the Jews gathered saw this and said, “Look how much he loved Lazarus.”

But others murmured, “If he cared about Lazarus so much, why didn’t he heal him? Why did he let Lazarus die?”

Jesus looked up from his tears and cried out in a loud voice, “Open up the tomb!”

Martha stepped forward, “Lord, he has been in there for four days. It will smell very bad!”



Jesus repeated himself and several people stepped forward and rolled the stone aside.

Jesus lifted his eyes up to heaven and began to pray, “Father. Thank you that you have heard me. I know you always hear me, but say this so others can know that you do and know that you sent me.”

Then Jesus set himself and declared in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

And Lazarus came out of the tomb walking stiffly forward as if waking up from a nap. He pulled at the linen wrapped around his head and hands.

Many who saw believed in Jesus that day.



But there were many that did not believe. They went to the Pharisees and said, “What do you think of this miracle? Is it from God, was it a trick?”

The Pharisees went to the chief priests and they plotted between themselves.

“If he continues as he is, everyone will believe him. The Romans will come in and shut us down for causing trouble. There will be a riot.”

Caiaphas, the chief priest, motioned for silence, “You know nothing and understand nothing. We must kill him to save the rest. The good of the many outweighs the good of the one. He must die to save us all.”

Caiaphas said that, but did not realize the prophecy he had uttered. Within a month of Caiaphas saying this, Jesus had died for our sins on the cross.



Jesus and his disciples were invited to dinner at Lazarus' house. They sat down and Martha bustled about serving food and Lazarus entertained everyone with his stories. But Mary was nowhere to be seen.

Then she came in. She carried a jar of perfume so fine and expensive; everyone was shocked she had taken it out.

Quietly she walked up to Jesus and broke the jar open, pouring the perfume over him. Then she knelt down at his feet and wiped them with her hair. The job for the lowest of servants she performed with her crowning glory.

Judas sat back in shock and disgust, "She wasted that perfume. It could have been sold and given to the poor, but she sat there and poured it on his feet."

Jesus stared at Judas and said, "Leave her alone. She prepares me for my burial. You will always have the poor, but I will not always be with you."

Judas heard this and left. From that point on he began to look for a time to betray Jesus.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. What were Mary and Martha doing while Jesus was teaching? Which one do you think you would be doing?
2. What was Mary and Martha's response when Jesus came after Lazarus had died? Why do you think Jesus waited so long to come?
3. Why do you think Mary poured the perfume over Jesus?

Middle Kids

1. Read Luke 10:40. What does it say about Martha? Is she doing something bad or making bad decisions? What distracts you from Jesus? Now read verse 41. What did Jesus tell Martha? Did she choose the wrong things?
2. Read John 12:3. What does it say about the perfume in the verse? Why do you think everyone made a big deal about Mary washing Jesus' feet with her hair? Why did Jesus say it was important? Read John 12:7.
3. Read John 12:8. What does Jesus think our priorities should be?

Older Guys

1. Read Luke 10:38-42. Write down everything you notice about Jesus, Mary, and Martha in this passage. Now think about why is Martha frustrated? What would your reaction be? What would be expected normally of Mary? How many people could Martha be serving? Think about their decisions? Was either one wrong?
2. Read John 11:11-12. What is the disciples reaction to Jesus' statement? Read 1 Thessalonians 3:13. Was Jesus using a phrase they would have known? Or did "asleep" come to mean dead to Christians because of Lazarus' death?
3. Read John 11:16. What is Thomas' plan? Read John 20:224-28. We tend to remember Thomas for the second story. But in this passage Thomas is ready to go and die with Jesus. We often remember the negative things about ourselves and downplay the important things. Take time to remind yourself of both your shortcomings AND where you've done right.
4. Read John 12:9. Why are the Jews coming to see Jesus? Do they believe he's the Messiah?

What is the priests' reaction to this? Read John 12:10. How do you react to the new star at church? Do you recognize God working in that person or are you jealous?

Activities

1. Jesus traveled all over Israel in this story. Read through the Biblical accounts and follow along with where Jesus traveled. How many miles did he travel?
2. Some Bible studies are called "Mary and Martha studies." They take time to do a service project together and then they sit down together to learn about God. Brainstorm together what are service projects you can do together?
3. Read Luke 10:42. What does Jesus say about Mary's choice? Now as a family read these verses: Joshua 18:5; Psalms 16:5; Psalms 27:4; Psalms 73:26; Psalms 119:57; and Psalms 142:5. What do all of these verses say about what we learn from God? Can it ever be taken from us?
4. Get some toilet paper and take turns wrapping each other up in "grave cloths" like Lazarus was. After you've all wrapped up tear it apart and rejoice in being risen like Lazarus did.

Online

1. Lazarus mask-

<http://christiangamesandcrafts.com/subjects/items/142>

2. Mary and Martha story cube- <http://www.jesus-without-language.net/martha-mary-luke-10-make-2/>

3. Cute Lazarus craft-

<http://blog.aussiepumpkinpatch.com/2012/02/this-past-christmas-as-we-dutifully.html>