

Luke 10:38-42 (American Standard Bible)

<sup>38</sup>Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. <sup>39</sup>And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; <sup>42</sup>but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Discuss the following questions. If you are in a larger group, you may want to divide into groups of three for this discussion. You may then decide to report back to the larger group or to move directly to prayer time.

1. As Martha was offering hospitality, why do you think she was complaining to Jesus about her younger sister?
2. Has there been a time in your life when you found yourself frustrated because you found yourself doing all the preparation work?
3. Suppose Jesus decided not to get involved with the disagreement between the two sisters. What do you think would have happened?
4. In Christian conferencing we must listen, and Jesus modeled that listening skill. As Jesus responded in love, was Martha able to listen?
5. How might we become better listeners and respond in a Christ-like manner?

Prayer: Lord, sometimes we just don't agree with our brothers and sisters in the faith. We find ourselves torn between competing priorities and perspectives, and often it is difficult to listen. As we engage in Christian conferencing, help us not to become frustrated. Help us to truly listen to our brothers and sisters and to respond in love, so that we might learn from one another and seek your will instead of our own. Amen.