

# Focus on Jesus



- Theme:** Keeping our focus on what is most important. Proper 11 (16) Yr. C
- Object:** A camera. Preferably a digital so you can show the photo results.
- Scripture:** Jesus said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 Only a few things are important, even just one. Mary has chosen the good thing. It will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42 (NLV)

One of my hobbies is photography. I love to take pictures. I brought my camera with me this morning and I would like to take a picture. Who would like for me to take their picture? OK. (choose one of the children) Now, Susie, smile while I take your picture. (Hold the camera up facing toward yourself and snap the photo.) All right! I'm sure I got a very good picture of Susie. Do you think so? You don't? Why not? (Look at the photo results if you used a digital camera.) Oh, I had the camera focused on me instead of on Susie, didn't I? Well, let's try again. (Take another picture, but this time focus the camera on Susie.) There, I'm sure the results were much better this time. (Show the results if using a digital camera.)

When taking pictures, it is very important to make sure you are focused on the right thing. I was pretty foolish to try to take a picture of Susie with the camera focused on me rather than on Susie, wasn't I? In our daily life, it is important that we focus on the right thing too. Sometimes, we forget what is important and we focus on all the wrong things. That is what our Bible lesson teaches us today.

One day, Jesus went to visit in the home of two sisters named Mary and Martha. The sisters welcomed Jesus into their home and Martha immediately began to work very hard to get dinner ready for Jesus. While Martha worked to prepare the meal, Mary just sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to his teaching.

Martha was upset that her sister was not helping her, so she went to Jesus and complained, "Can't you see that my sister is not helping me? Don't you even care? Tell her to help me."

Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about too many things. Only a few things are important, perhaps just one. Mary has chosen that one thing and I will not take it away from her."

Martha made the mistake of focusing on herself rather than on Jesus. Mary, on the other hand, was totally focused upon Jesus and what he was teaching. Jesus said that she had chosen the right thing.

As you live your daily life, are worried and troubled about many things that are not really important, or are you focused on Jesus, the one thing that is really important?

Heavenly Father, help us to keep our focus on Jesus each and every day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**LET'S FOCUS:** Take the children outside at the beginning of class and let each child FOCUS in to some small object using a pair of binoculars. The teacher can have several small objects set up around the designated area on which the children may FOCUS. (Small plastic toys, a painted rock, a children's book.) Ask the children to describe the object on which they have focused. After each child has had a turn, tell them that our Bible story today will help us to learn the importance of our FOCUS in life.

**FOCUS PICTURES:** Let each child use a digital camera or smart phone to take a close-up picture of a small object. If possible, project the pictures on a screen and discuss whether the picture is properly focused on the subject. If that is not possible, pass the camera around and let the children view the photo on the camera's viewer.

**FOCUS POSTER:** Have the children draw a very small picture of themselves at the side of a sheet of poster board. Next have them cut out a large picture of a Bible and glue it onto the other side of the poster. Title the poster KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON JESUS.

**M & M SKIT** - Have children play act out the Bible story while the teacher or another child reads the story. Mary can be sitting at Jesus' feet while Martha prepares the food (at the table the teacher has available for the skit). Let Martha and Jesus SAY their parts of the story.

**FILL IN THE BLANKS:** On the chalk board write "Mary knew what was most I\_\_P\_\_R\_\_A\_\_T! She wanted to spend time with \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_. Do you?" Let the children come to the board and fill in one letter until the sentences are completed. Then have the class read the sentences aloud.

**FOCUS CHART:** Put a chart on the wall of the classroom. One column can be labeled as IMPORTANT THINGS and the other column can be listed as NOT IMPORTANT. The children will pick a slip of paper from a bag that the teacher has prepared ahead of time. On some slips the teacher will have write something that is IMPORTANT and on other slips the teacher will write something that is NOT IMPORTANT. After the child has drawn a slip of paper out of the bag, he/she will tape the word in the IMPORTANT OR NOT IMPORTANT column.

## The Most Important Thing



**Theme:** Keeping ourselves centered on what is most important in our life. Proper 11(16) Yr. C

**Object:** Go to MacDonald's or a similar place and get a small paper bag, napkin, straw, packet of catsup, and a paper cup with a lid on it.

**Scripture:** As they went on their way, they came to a town where a woman named Martha lived. She cared for Jesus in her home. Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to all He said. Martha was working hard getting the supper ready. She came to Jesus and said, 'Do You see that my sister is not helping me? Tell her to help me.' Jesus said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. Only a few things are important, even just one. Mary has chosen the good thing. It will not be taken away

from her.' Luke 10: 38-42 (NIV)

Do you ever get hungry during church? Sometimes I get so hungry that I just don't think I can make it through the sermon. This was one of those mornings, so I went to MacDonald's and got a hamburger. If you will excuse me, I am going to eat it right now. (Start removing the items from the paper bag one at a time, commenting on each one as you take it out. When you have removed all of the items from the bag, show surprise and concern that something seems to be missing -- the hamburger.)

Can you imagine that? I got so interested in getting all of these things to go with my hamburger, that I forgot the most important thing. I forgot to get the hamburger!

You probably think I am pretty foolish to have forgotten the hamburger, after all, that was the most important thing. Well, I am not the only person to ever do something so foolish. That is what our Bible lesson is about this morning.

As Jesus and his disciples were traveling, they came to a town where Martha lived with her sister Mary. The sisters welcomed Jesus into their home and Martha immediately began to work very hard to get supper ready for Jesus. While Martha busied herself in preparing the meal, Mary just sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to his teaching.

Martha was upset that her sister was not helping her, so she went to Jesus and said, "Do you see that my sister is not helping me? Tell her to help me."

Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about too many things. Only a few things are important, perhaps just one. Mary has chosen that one thing and I will not take it away from her."

Many of us make the same mistake that Martha made. We get so busy working, going to school, playing, or watching television that we often forget the most important thing. We forget to spend time with Jesus! We must be very careful that we don't get so busy doing good things that we leave out the best! After all, Jesus is the most important thing!

Dear Jesus, help us to remember that you are the most important thing in our lives. Don't let us get so busy with other things that we forget to spend time with you. Amen.

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 10:38-42

**IMPORTANT THINGS HUNT:** Place many items around a designated area - such as toys, books, Bible, Bible verses, Christian plaques, magazine pics, etc. Send children out to the designated area, two by two, to find something IMPORTANT (just one item per child to begin with) and bring their item back to the classroom table. Send 2 or 3 more children out to find something IMPORTANT until everyone has brought an IMPORTANT item back to the table. Gather around the table and talk about the IMPORTANT ITEMS and why. Discuss today's lesson!

**IMPORTANT THINGS TRAY:** Place several items on a tray and cover with a towel or paper towel. Uncover the tray in the middle of a circle that the children have formed and tell children to see how many important items can be remembered when the teacher covers the tray up again. Talk about important things and how to remember the important things of the Lord!!

**JESUS VISORS:** Provide each child an inexpensive visor to use colorful glitter glue on the rim and write JESUS in bright colors and decorate.

**JESUS BEADS:** Let children make a bracelet or necklace with the JESUS letters and other colorful beads to string and then tie and wear to tell others about the IMPORTANT THING.

**TABLE BANNER:** Lay long roll of paper on classroom table. Let children write JESUS in huge letters and color in bright colors and write smaller words from today's lesson - such as "important things" from the Bible. Let children decorate with stickers or other bright markers, etc.

**IMPORTANT THINGS UNSCRAMBLING:** Hide letters around the room. The children can run around the room to find letters that will form a word for something important and tape or glue the letters on a poster board that is titled IMPORTANT THINGS. (Letters on a sheet can be purchased inexpensively at a scrap booking store). Tell children to think of a word before they go to look for letters so they'll know what letters they would need to find.

**IMPORTANT THINGS CHARTING:** On a large poster board, make two sides for the children to see of IMPORTANT THINGS and NOT IMPORTANT THINGS. Children can either draw important or not important things, or tape or glue pictures from magazines on either side. Teacher can give words on little pieces of paper that the children can tape or glue to the correct side of the chart as well.

**CRAFT STICKS:** Provide children with craft sticks to color or paint or colored markers. Then children can glue craft sticks to form the word J-E-S-U-S. onto a piece of poster board. Form a folded piece of the bottom of the piece of poster board to form a "stand" for the JESUS paper.

**IMPORTANT THINGS BOOKLET:** Let children choose some pieces of colored squares of construction paper. Staple or tie together with a punched hole and yarn. Title page can say IMPORTANT THINGS and the children can draw, color, or trace words or pictures (or glue pics from magazines) to each page inside their booklet. Tell children to glance through their book through out the week to remember the IMPORTANT things in their lives.