

Love God: being with Jesus

discussion guide

based on **Luke 10.38-42** (Linked to sermon from 4/2/18)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was part of our 'Love is an action' series, unpacking what it means for us to 'Love God, Love each other, Reach the world'.

Intro: Reflect on a time when you felt you had too much to do in too little time – in retrospect, what would you have done differently, if anything?

Read Luke 10.38-42

What words would you use to describe Martha?

What words would you use to describe Mary?

Do you think you're naturally more of a Martha or a Mary?

Jesus says (v42) that only 'one thing' is needed. How would you describe that 'one thing'? Is he being too simplistic?

Why is spending time with Jesus so important for Christians? What are the benefits? If we don't spend time with Jesus, what are the costs – for us, and those around us?

Martha was kind (v38). Think of times or situations when your kindness has got in the way of the 'one thing'.

Luke reports (v40) that Martha was distracted. What things distract you from the 'one thing'?

Jesus said (v41) that Martha was anxious about many things. Is anxiety something you struggle with? If so, what do you make of Jesus' response?

Bishop Jonathan commented that we're a "Martha church" and need to be more of a "Mary church". Do you agree or disagree? Why?

What would it look like for us as individuals to be more "Mary people"?

What would it look like for us as a church to be a more "Mary church"?

How do all these passages speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Up (love God): is there anything you need to *not* do this week to help you spend time by yourself with Jesus?

In (love each other): how can you help each other stop the 'many things' (distractions, anxieties, over-committed kindness) getting in the way of the 'one thing'?

Out (reach the world): Talk about specific situations (at home / work etc) where you want to be able to carry the peace and presence of Jesus this week. Pray for yourselves in those situations.