



Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

BOOK CLUB Discussion Guide

There's nothing sweeter than women of God coming together for fellowship and a chance to grow in Jesus!

Hosting a Book Club is as easy as:

- Purchase the book: [Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy With God in the Busyness of Life](#)
- Decide on a time and place (All you need is the book in your hands or on your kindle!)
- Invite a group of women - Provide a few goodies, tea or coffee
- As leader, have a copy of this guide and a Bible to look up discussion verses.
- You may also want to:
 - Consider these "[Tips for Leading Book Club Discussions](#)"
 - Review the corresponding chapters in [Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World](#).
 - Consult the study guide in DVD study pack for further discussion material.
 - Check out [resources](#) at www.HavingaMaryHeart.com
- After reading the book, facilitate conversation by introducing the questions below.

Though we've created questions for your discussion time, feel free to create your own. Use them all, or a few to start discussion. Take notes during your reading time for talking points or verses you'd like to revisit.

{ Special thanks to Crystal Hornback for creating this Book Club Discussion Guide! }

Chapter 1:

1. Do you relate more to Mary or Martha? Explain your answer.
2. Do you think it's possible for our basic character to change, or are we destined to live our lives stuck in a predetermined nature?
3. Nature vs. Nurture... which have you found to be more true in your life?
4. What are some ways that you try to find balance between your inner Martha and Mary?
5. What is one thing you hope to take away from this book?

Chapter 2:

1. Have you ever doubted God's goodness and truly wondered if He still cared?
2. How desperate was that moment for you, and how did God answer your question?
3. Joanna lists the *Three Deadly D's of Destruction* as Distraction, Discouragement, & Doubt. What are some ways we can help one another fight through each of those?
4. What was your most prominent take away from this chapter?
5. I love that Joanna stated, "*God came because he cares.*" Let's talk about a time that God showed you that he truly did care.

Chapter 3:

1. If you had been Martha when Jesus called out her worry, how would you have felt? Really try to put yourself in her shoes (especially you Martha's out there!).
2. I love on page 44 where Joanna asks the following questions regarding fear and worry:
 - a. "*Where did you come from?*" (What is the source of this fear? Is it real or imagined?)
 - b. "*Where are you going?*" (Will this thought draw me to God or into fear? Can I do anything about this problem, or should it be turned over to God?)
 - c. What if we added a third question when we interrogate fear... "*What do you think about this, Jesus?*" (What a powerful question!)
3. Which of the 10 signs of a big worrier on page 33 do you struggle with?
4. How might asking the questions above shift our thoughts on worry and fear?
5. Let's take time to pray for one another's fears and worries; where are you right now and how can we help?

Chapter 4:

1. Describe a time when your wagon was heavily burdened with tasks that weren't even meant for you.
2. Name one thing in your wagon that you can dump. Let's promise to do that... without guilt!
3. On pg. 56 Joanna writes, "*So often we give God the gift we think he needs rather than take the time to find out what he desires.*" What a powerful truth! Have you ever been guilty of this?
4. This brings us to a crucial question – What *does* God desire?

Chapter 5:

1. What does *"Intimacy with God"* mean to you, and how do you achieve it?
2. Name a barrier in your life that the enemy keeps using to block out spiritual intimacy.
3. Pg. 69 shares a story about spiritual Snickers bars, and how we often use things like people, books, shopping, and more to fill our lives, rather than going to God. Name some of your *"Spiritual Snickers Bars."* How can we move past those temporary fixes into a place of deeper intimacy w/ Him?
4. Do you have a *With-Drawing Room*, such as a prayer closet? Tell us about your sacred space (even if it's simply a corner or desk) and how you've cultivated it to be a time of intimacy.

Chapter 6:

1. What might happen in our daily lives if we began to look at our tasks and chores as acts of worship, as we show gratitude for all that we have?
2. Have you ever encountered a divine appointment while you were simply "on your way"?
3. On pg. 94, Joanna reminds us to check our motives. Have you ever, in the midst of your kitchen service, stopped to ask yourselves, *"What am I relying on? To whom am I pointing people?"* I love that Joanna reminds us that it's so important that we remember, we alone cannot carry the burdens of others. We must rely on Christ to fully carry those burdens as we, filled with His love, walk in the privilege of sharing a loving Father with our orphan world.
4. Name a person who impacted you in this way, who showed you Christ. Let's make a point to stop and thank God for them.
5. Name a person who needs you to be that for them right now. Let's make a point to do just that.

Chapter 7:

1. What are your hula-hoops? Which one is the most difficult to keep in motion?
2. I love this powerful truth on pg. 100, *"It's easy to forget that while there is a time to work, there is also a time to worship--and it's the worship, the time we spend with God, that provides the serene center to a busy complex life."*
3. How do you balance works and worship?
4. Why do you think we so quickly forget how beautiful it is for us to find & keep Him

centered in our lives?

5. Let's talk about the gut-wrenching story from Wilbur Rees on pg. 104. Are we, as Joanna asks, willing to let God explode our comfort zone and expand our capacity for him... or do we want a God we can manage? This is a tough question to swallow, isn't it?
6. Has anyone started using *the Three C's* on pg. 110 to keep Christ centered in your life? If so, how have they helped?
7. What would you add to the *Creative Quiet Times* list on pg. 113, if anything? Which of these have you tried?
8. I love that Joanna ends the chapter with this beautiful truth, "*What I really need is more and more of the Master himself.*" How can we help one another carry out this today?

Chapter 8:

1. What is your favorite type of story? Why?
2. What did you take away from the story of Lazarus? In what way does it connect to your life?
3. I love that Joanna says that "*because time and space confine us, we can't always see what is really happening.*" What helps you through those periods of "waiting" or "in-between," when you know that God is working, but don't necessarily see or feel it yet?
4. If you are in that waiting space, how can we pray for you? If you've been there before, what helped guide you to Christ during that time?
5. On pg. 120, Joanna says, "*God's will does not always proceed in a straight line.*" Let's discuss how we've experienced this truth in our own lives.

Chapter 9:

1. Did you take the *Teachable Heart Test* in ch. 9? How did you fair?
2. I love the challenge where Joanna asked about whether or not we really want an intimate relationship with Christ. Did you ask yourself that question? What was your answer, and were you surprised by it?
3. We don't have to come to the throne already knowing exactly how to be a perfect little Christian. IF we come to the throne, He will teach us how to approach Him... how to go forward... how to cultivate a deeper relationship with him and others. Isn't that a powerful truth?! What is your personal conviction in that?
4. The picture of Mary washing the feet of Jesus with her hair is beautiful and wrecking. Are there any of us who have ever been even remotely close to that? Why not, do you think?

5. I love the takeaway that God is willing to forgive and change us, even at our very worst. If we believe that to be true, what does that mean for each of us?
6. Why do you think we tend to push that truth to the side and continue to beat ourselves up for past mistakes?

Chapter 10:

1. On page 165, Joanna talks about two kinds of hearts. She asks, "*Which kind of heart do you have? Is it extravagant with gratitude or tight-fisted with greed?*" How did you respond to that?
2. On page 168 is this line, "*Like Mary, you feel the call to total abandonment, but surrender like that makes you afraid.*" Have you ever felt "afraid" of surrender?
3. What is your first internal response to the phrase "quiet time"?? Be honest; for many, it brings negative connotation.
4. How can we begin to shift the connotation often associated w/ that quiet time, with that surrender? How have you done so in your own life, and how can we do that for others?
5. The last few sentences of ch. 10 are so good ... let's read them if you don't remember. How can we respond to that beautiful truth?

Chapter 11:

1. Remember a few chapters ago when we asked how to balance work & worship? I love that Joanna lays that out for us here!
 - a. Whether we connected more with Mary or Martha, the checklists on pages 182 & 183 help us figure out which direction we need to sway in order to find that balance.
 - b. Did either of the checklists apply to you overwhelmingly, or did you find that you were in balance?
 - c. Either way, were you surprised by your findings?
 - d. Why is it important to find our balance, rather than sway one way or the other?
 - e. What are some ways you are creating balance in your life?
2. On pg. 189, Joanna says, "Our lives should be a refuge for the hurting, not a country club for the comfortable."
 - a. Which is your life? What about your church? Your family?
 - b. Name a time when you wanted to, or even did, turn away from an opportunity to show Jesus to someone because you were busy or just not feeling it? (We've

- all been there... trust me).
- c. Name a time when you didn't want to, but did, and how explain how that impacted you (and the recipient).
3. Towards the end of this chapter, Joanna talks about how spending intimate time w/ the Lord will help our work become worshipful and our worship become delightful. Are you there? If not, how can we pray for one another as we strive for that place?

Chapter 12:

1. What is your typical first response to difficulties?
2. If it is true that a process requires a process, then how does that affect our Christian walk?
3. Do you believe that the testing our faith has purpose? Why or why not?
4. Let's all ask ourselves this question honestly, *"Do I want to be more like Jesus?"*
 - a. If your answer is yes, what is one thing you can do right now to make that transition?
5. Perseverance is key. Share how you have persevered through this journey to find that balance between Mary & Martha.
6. What has been your biggest takeaway from this book?
 - a. Name some ways that you have been able to apply its teachings to your life.
 - b. What is one quote that spoke the most to you?
7. Pg. 206 says, *"So don't worry that you haven't arrived, my dear sister. Just don't give up on the process. Don't miss the journey."*
 - a. Tell us how this book has helped you embrace the journey.
 - b. How has your intimate time w/ the Lord changed since you started the Having A Mary Heart journey?

Joanna's Other Books...

If you enjoyed using this Book Club Discussion for *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, you may want to consider following up with one or both of her other books:

- ***Having a Mary Spirit: Allowing God to Change Us from the Inside Out***

www.HavingaMarySpirit.com

Explores the transformation Martha experienced when she received the rebuke of the Lord and changed. We, too, can have a Holy Makeover as we cooperate with the grace God provides.

- ***Lazarus Awakening: Finding Our Place in the Heart of God***

www.LazarusAwakening.com

Jesus came to bring abundant life, but many of us settle for a half-life, a zombie-type of Christianity. It's time to come out of our tombs and shed the graveclothes that trip us up. It's time to live.

Learn more about Joanna, her books and DVD studies at www.JoannaWeaverBooks.com.