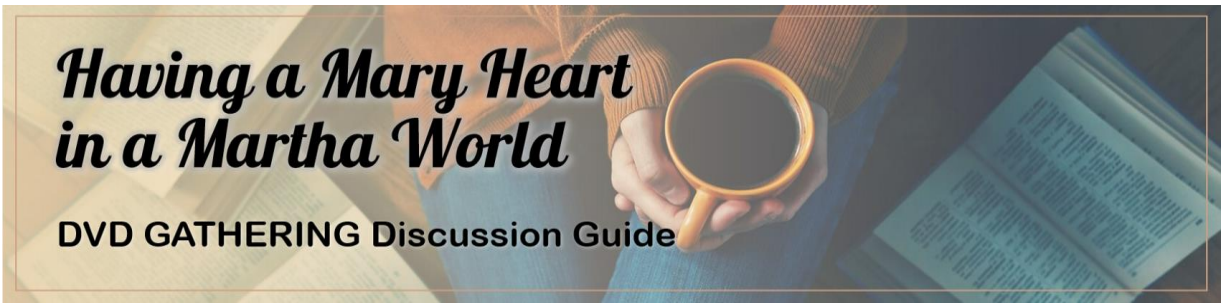


There's nothing sweeter than women of God coming together for fellowship and a chance to grow in Jesus!

Hosting a DVD Gathering is as easy as:

- Purchase Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: DVD Study Pack
- Decide on a time and place (DVD player and large screen TV is all you need)
- 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 Small Groups"
    - 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 Leader's Guide and resources at www.HavingaMaryHeart.com
- After viewing the video, 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 the video to capture talking points or verses you'd like to revisit.

You'll find the Viewer Pages at the end of this guide. Print a copy for each woman to take notes during the teaching sessions.

If you don't want to use all ten sessions due to time constraints, you may want to focus on the six videos I chose for the six-week study option: Sessions 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10.

{Special thanks to Rachel Krahn who created this DVD Gathering Guide.}

## Session 1:

1. Read Luke 10:38-42. What preconceived ideas did you have about Mary and Martha before reading this book? Which woman do you relate to most – Mary or Martha? Explain your answer.
2. How have you felt the struggle between the high call to worship and the daily responsibility of work? Explain.

3. How does the Good News of what has already done for us change the way we view our lives and responsibilities?
4. What could “doing life with Jesus” or spending more time with Him look like in your life?

## Session 2:

1. 1. The story of Mary and Martha stirs up memories of sibling rivalry for many of us. What were the dynamics of your sibling relationships growing up?
2. Have the circumstances of your life ever made you question God’s love and ask, like Martha, “Lord, don’t you care?” How did God answer your question?
3. The Prodigal Son gave up serving his father and eventually had to serve a stranger. We all serve someone or something. What types of things do people tend to serve?
4. Have you ever experienced being welcome home by God after wandering away, whether in rebellion or working so hard you became distracted? Share your experience.

## Session 3:

1. How did fear play a role in your childhood? How does it affect you currently?
2. What types of things tend to worry and upset you? What helps you overcome worry or anxiety?
3. Even when we don’t know the future outcome or understand the present circumstances, we can choose to walk under the umbrella of God’s protection by trusting Him. How have you come to trust God more?
4. What do you need to trust God with today? Pray over the needs expressed in the group.

## Session 4:

1. What rocks (burdens) are you currently carrying in your wagon? Which of these has God asked you to carry?
2. After being saved by grace, do you rely on grace to strengthen you or do find yourself trying to work for God’s favor on your own?
3. Read William Barclay quote on “Session 4” video page. Has your religion been a burden or a delight? Does it lift you and others up, or does it add weight that pulls you down?

4. Read Matthew 11:28-30. In the middle of your responsibilities and necessary labor, what does it mean to realize God wants to share your load and give you inner rest? What burden is overwhelming you today? Pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to come along side of you and share those burdens.

## Session 5:

1. It's been said that each of us were created "with a God-shaped hole" and that we will never be truly satisfied until we fill that space with him. Unfortunately, many of us fill up on lesser things. What do you turn to instead of God when you're feeling empty?
2. We all face barriers to intimacy with God. Which of these do you struggle with most?
    a. Unworthiness
    b. Busyness
    c. Guilt/Shame
    d. Pride
    e. Depression/Sadness
    f. Trials/Hardships
3. Do you have a daily time with God? What does it look like?
4. Jesus called Martha to the same intimacy He experienced with His Father through solitude, the Word, prayer and dependence on God. Which of these areas do you feel God calling you to prioritize and grow in?

## Session 6:

1. Dwight L. Moody said, "Of one hundred men, one will read the Bible; the ninety-nine will read the Christian." Who was the first Christian in your life to live in such a way that you could clearly see Christ? How did this person affect your life?
2. What keeps you from truly serving others and loving them through your actions?
3. Joanna said, "We are not called to everything, but we are called to something." What do you sense God asking you to do?
4. Which of these steps could you ask God to help you grow in to better love His people?
    a. Being sensitive to the Spirit's leading
    b. Being willing to do what is needed
    c. Cultivating a holy detachment to the results
    d. Being completely dependent

## Session 7:

1. How do you typically respond to difficult times in life?
2. Which of the following lessons from Lazarus have you found most true in your life? Explain the circumstance involved and what you learned.
    a. God's will does not always proceed in a straight line.
    b. God's love sometimes tarries for our good and his glory.
    c. God's ways are not our ways, but his character is still dependable.
    d. God's plan is released when we believe and obey.
    e. The "end" is never the end; it is only the beginning.
3. How does fixing our eyes on Heaven, help us survive difficult seasons while on Earth?
4. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." What are you going through that God is calling you to respond with a life of faith?

## Session 8:

1. As a child, were you generally sorry to have been caught or sorry for what you had done?
2. The Martha we read about in John 11 has clearly grown and changed from the woman she was in Luke 10. When you receive the rebuke of the Lord, are you more likely to resent it, resist it, or receive it? Why?
3. How can spending time with God make us more secure in His love and more open to His rebuke?
4. Read Acts 3:19. Prayerfully take some time to consider: What area(s) is God asking you to repent, renounce and turn from?

## Session 9:

1. Have you ever felt like your past has disqualified you from loving God well?
2. Despite Judas' criticism, Mary chose to show Jesus sacrificial love. What is most likely to keep you from loving God extravagantly (e.g. opinions of others, clinging to what you have, feeling insecure in what you have to offer).
3. What have you been guarding or holding onto that God might want to use for His Kingdom?

4. Mary loved extravagantly because she had experienced firsthand the extravagant love of God. Take some time to pray or write a love letter back to God expressing your gratitude for his lavish love and extravagant grace.

## Session 10:

1. Our spiritual life can feel like a teeter totter with works on one side and worship on the other, but God never meant for one to exist without the other. What side of the teeter totter do you tend to focus on – work or worship? What are some practical ways you could lean into the weaker side of your teeter totter to bring balance to your life?
2. What happens when we try to work out our salvation and fix ourselves on our own? What role does God want to play in our process of sanctification (becoming more like Him)?
3. How could spending time with God help us to better reflect who He is?
4. You were meant to be a display of God's splendor, and He often reveals Himself most in our seemingly darkest moments. What process are you undergoing that God wants to shine through?

## Joanna's Other Books...

IF you enjoyed using this DVD Gathering Option for *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World,* you may want to consider following up with one or both of my 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. (DVD Gathering Discussion Guide – coming soon!)

- ***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. (DVD Gathering Discussion Guide – coming soon!)

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

# SESSION ONE VIDEO

## Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.* REVELATION 3:20, NKJV

***The Story of Mary and Martha—the Story of You and Me, Luke 10:38-42***

The Living Room Intimacy _____God that we long for will never be found in Kitchen Service _____ God.

***Discovering the Better Part***

1. Martha opened her home (Luke 10:38).
    - preparations – *diakonia* - _____

2. Mary opened her heart (Luke 10:39).
    - She made _____ for time with Jesus.
    - She did the _____.
    - She _____ to Jesus.

The same invitation Jesus made to Martha is the invitation He makes to us:

> "Come spend time with Me…Allow My _____ to fill your life so that I can spill you to the world!"

# Session Two Video

## Lord, Don't You Care?

*Quick! Bring the best robe…. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.*

Luke 15:22-24

***Another Set of Siblings, Luke 15:11-32***

The Youngest Son

- "Father, give me my share" (verse 12).
- "He came to his_____" (verse 17).

The Father (verses 20-23)

- The father _____ him.
- The father _____ to him.
- The father restored him.

"Best robe" conveys _____.

Signet "ring" suggests _____.

"Sandals" indicate _____.

"Feast" signifies _____.

The Oldest Son

- "was in the field" (verse 25).
- "All these years I've been _____for you" (verse 29).

***Key Truths***

1. Proximity doesn't ensure relationship.
2. God's love for others in no way diminishes His love for us.
3. We all need to come to our senses; it's time to come _____!

Our Father's heart: "Everything I have is _____" (Luke 15:31).

# Session Three Video

## Freedom from Fear

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*
2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV

***It All Started in the Garden, Genesis 2:7 - 3:24***

Two Trees:

- The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
- The Tree of _____

The forbidden tree was a symbol of God's right to set _____ on our lives.

***Progression of Temptation, Genesis 3:1-5***

1. Doubt God's intentions (verse 1)
2. Doubt God's trustworthiness (verse 4)
3. Doubt God's motives (verse 5)

Adam and Eve stepped out from under God's _____—and fear entered the world.

Mistake #1: Eve engaged in a prolonged conversation with talking snake.[i]

Mistake #2: Eve believed she _____ better than God.

***The Remedy, Genesis 3:13-24***

- God in His mercy _____ them (verse 21).
- God in His mercy barred them from the Tree of Life (verse 24).
- In His mercy, Jesus hung on a _____ to give us eternal life (Galatians 3:13).

Which tree will you eat from?

# Session Four Video

## Burden Bearer

*Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.*

Psalm 55:22, NLT

***Jesus Came to a Burdened World***

Religion had become a _____ that Jesus said was impossible to bear (Matthew 23:1-4).

- When it comes to sin, Jesus is our BURDEN _____.
- When it comes to life, He wants to be our BURDEN _____.

***The Invitation, Matthew 11:28-30***

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

*Rest* means "inner tranquility while engaged in necessary _____."[ii]

Two primary Greek words translated as "burden":

- *baros* – "a burden or difficulty"
- *phortion* – "a _____"

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart."

A yoke is a symbol of _____.

"For my yoke is _____ and my burden is light."

***Our Helper, the Holy Spirit, John 4:16, 26***

*Parakletos* means "Helper"—the One "who is _____ alongside."

Your burden can be a _____ (OT – *yehab)* (Psalm 55:22)**.**

# Session Five Video

## Pursued by Love

*I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God.*

Jeremiah 24:7

***Jesus, Our Way Maker***

We were made for a Garden, but sin destroyed all that. Yet God's love kept reaching…

- God's holiness required separation –the temple _____.
- But then Jesus came as the final sacrifice to _____ us to God.
- The veil was "torn in two from top to bottom" (Matthew 27:51).

***Jesus, Our Example***

Jesus came to show us the way back to Garden-of-Eden intimacy with God. He modeled…

1. Solitude (Luke 5:16)
2. The Word (Joshua 1:8)
3. Prayer (Luke 11:1)
4. Dependence on _____(John 5:19)

***Finding Our Way Back Home***

Because of Jesus, we are invited to enjoy full and complete fellowship with our Father (John 14:23; 17:23).

Our life is "_____ with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

# SESSION SIX VIDEO

## Compelled by Love

*May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.*

I THESSALONIANS 3:12

***The Call to Radical Love, Matthew 22:37-40***

- Love _____ with all your heart, soul and mind.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.

While *love* is a noun, it is best lived out as a _____ (James 2:26).

Jesus' love in feeding the five thousand (Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-13).

***The Challenge of Practical Love***

Principle #1: True love always _____ something.

Principle #2: Do what you can with what you _____.

Principle #3: When we give what we have, God makes it more than enough.

***Developing a Kitchen Service Heart***

1. Be sensitive to the Spirit's leading.
2. Be willing to do what is _____.
3. Cultivate a holy detachment to the _____.
4. Be completely dependent.

"God [will] make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

# Session Seven Video

## Rewriting History

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah 29:11

***The Story Behind the Story***
Because we know Bible story endings, we tend to minimize the difficult "middles."

***Stories of Faith, Hebrews 11***
"Faith is being …certain of what we do not _____" (verse 1).

- Abraham
- Joseph
- Rahab

How did these people survive their stories?

- "All these people were still living by _____when they died" (verse 13).
- "They admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth" (verse 13).
- "They were longing for a _____ country—a heavenly one" (verse 16).

***What Will You Do with Your Story? John 11:1-44***

"Lord, the one you love is sick" (verse 3).

"Yet when [Jesus] heard…he stayed where he was two more days" (verse 6).

1. Run to meet Jesus (verse 20).

2. Surrender the quill of your _____ (verses 21-22).

3. _____ that He is the resurrection and the life (verses 25-26, 40).

4. Let God rewrite your story (Isaiah 46:10).

# Session Eight Video

## The Beauty of Repentance

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9

***A Woman Transformed***

Martha was willing to receive rebuke from Jesus (Luke 10:38-42; John 11).

She was willing to grow and _____.

What will we do with the rebuke of the Lord when it comes to us?

Will we resist it? resent it? or _____ it?

***What Kind of Sorrow Do You Have?***

True repentance involves the right kind of sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10).

| **WORLDLY SORROW** | **GODLY SORROW** |
|---|---|
| Regret | Repent and turn from sin |
| Guilt remains | Guilt is gone |
| "I'm sorry, _____..." | "I'm sorry, I was _____" |
| _____ mistakes | _____ from mistakes |
| Bondage | Freedom |

***The Beauty of Repentance, Acts 3:19***

When the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin:

1. _____ of sin.

2. _____ what you've embraced.

3. _____ forgiveness.

4. _____ with God and others.

# Session Nine Video

## Loving God Extravagantly

*I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world,*
*what she has done will also be told.*

Mark 14:9

***At Home in Bethany, John 12:1-3***

Over and over in the New Testament, we read that Jesus returned to Bethany.

- Lazarus _____.
- Martha _____.
- Mary _____.

Scriptural overview of two anointings:

1. End of Jesus' ministry, by Mary in John 12; unnamed in Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark14:3-9
2. Beginning of Jesus' ministry, by a sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50

***Giving a Gift Worthy of the Savior, John 12:3-8***

Mary the worshipper became Mary the servant as she gave what she had:

1. The _____ was an extravagant sacrifice.
2. The _____ took extravagant boldness.
3. The _____ was extravagant abandonment.

***The Beautiful Result***

"The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume" (verse 3).

"Leave her alone…It was intended that she should _____this perfume" (verse 7).

***Our Response***

Philippians 2:17—"poured"—*spendo*

Don't _____ to your life; pour it out.

# Session Ten Video

## Lord of the Process

*To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.*

Jude 1:24

***To Be Like Jesus***

It takes a process to make a product, in life and in our Christian walk.

- Justification is being made right _____ God.
- Sanctification is being made holy _____ God.

The process is divine, but we must cooperate with _____ (Philippians 2:12-13).

Obedience + Repentance = _____ - likeness

***A Slow and Steady Transformation***

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the _____ image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18, NKJV).

1. Take off the _____; be honest with yourself and God.

2. Spend time in His Word (Romans 12:2).

3. Keep your eyes on _____ (Hebrews 12:2).

4. Don't resent difficult pressures or the anvil of trials (James 1:2-4).

5. Let God _____ anything that distorts His image in you.

"They look to Him and were radiant" (Psalm 34:5, NKJV).

# Bonus Session Video

## Developing a Quiet Time

*Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.*

Psalm 62:8

### *The Blessing of Solitude*

When Jesus told Martha, "Mary has chosen what is better" (Luke 10:42), He was inviting her to an intimate relationship with God.

"Only one thing is needed" (verse 42).

### *Roundtable Discussion*

### *Journaling Your Way to Intimacy, James 1:22-25*

Journaling helps you…

- to get quiet and _____with God.
- capture and _____what God is saying.
- track and record your spiritual _____.

Start_____, but begin…

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[i] SESSION 3: From a conversation with Alicia Britt Chole.

[ii] SESSION 4: Spiros Zodhiates, gen. ed., *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament,* rev. ed. *(*Chattanooga, TN: AMG International, 1993), s.v. "anapausis" (Strong's #372).