

# **National Junior High Sunday 2023**

*“Worried and Distracted,” based on Luke 10:40-42*

## **Children’s Story**

By Becky Ullom Naugle

*Consider the following outline for a children’s story and adapt to your setting as seems best.*

### **Greeting and introductory questions**

- Greet everyone as is expected in your setting.
- Ask questions like:
  - What does it mean to be distracted? Have you ever been distracted? Have you ever been so worried about something that you could not concentrate on other things?
  - Do any of you know the story in the Bible where Jesus visits two sisters named Mary and Martha?
  - If Jesus dropped by your house for a visit, what would you do to get ready?
  - Have you ever felt like someone was letting you do the chores while they were having fun? How did that make you feel?

### **Lesson**

- Choose one of the three short videos featuring the Martha and Mary story to share with the kids/congregation.

<https://youtu.be/oCcYFPPRW6A> **Jesus Visits Mary and Martha (1 minute 18 seconds)**

<https://youtu.be/RFBkyDc6bIc> **God’s Story - Mary and Martha (3 minutes 30 seconds)**

<https://youtu.be/eUAuGzApcUM> **Mary and Martha (4 minutes 8 seconds)**

### **Reflection**

- What do you think God is trying to teach us with this story?
- What choices can we make in our lives that God would like?

(The goal is to help them understand that we should focus our lives and our choices on God, rather than being distracted or worried. Use their comments to guide the discussion.)

### **Prayer**

God, thank you for the chances we have to feel loved by you and to learn about you. Help us remember that we can share our worries with you. Help us remember that you want us to show your love to others. Amen.