Identity in Christ

As you gather together to hear and apply God’s Word, start by sharing how the previous study influenced you since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

Debrief & Interpret
- How did you apply your previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word?
  What did you learn about yourself?

Hear the Word

Have you ever proudly said, “I’m going to be a nurse?” There is nothing wrong with this. However, it can be easy for your identity to become wrapped up in being a nurse rather than finding your identity in Christ. In this story, Martha gets so wrapped up in hosting Jesus for dinner that she forgets what is most important.


38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

41 “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Discuss:
- Contrast Mary and Martha in this story. What do you notice about each of them?
- Often what we care about the most defines us. What defines each sister’s identity?
- What was Jesus trying to communicate about where we find purpose and meaning?

Respond Actively

Internal: In nursing school, we often find our identities in being a nurse or succeeding academically. As a nursing student, where do you primarily find your identity or value? In the coming week, commit to reminding yourself daily that your identity should be found in God’s love. Consider carrying a small token with you this week (e.g. a rock, a ribbon, etc.) that can serve as a tangible reminder for you to place your identity first in Jesus.

External: Finding your identity in Christ first and foremost means that you are becoming a Christian nurse, not a nurse who happens to be a Christian. As you think about being a Christian nurse, what is one thing you can do to put Christ first in your clinical experiences this week?