

Listening as Care

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

D Debrief & Interpret

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

H Hear the Word

In the story below, we see a contrast in how two of Jesus' followers demonstrate care for him. What can we learn from this story?

[Read Luke 10:38-42:](#)

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, ⁴² 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:

- How does Martha demonstrate care? How does Mary demonstrate care?
- How do you think Martha's focus on her job affected her interactions with Jesus?
- In what ways does Jesus' response to Martha surprise you? In what ways has Mary "chosen what is better" (v.42)?
- Applying to nursing practice, how do you discern when to listen and when to provide physical care? How can we balance these two nursing skills?

R Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Like Martha, we may be frantically running around fulfilling all our responsibilities...and forget to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him. How can you create space this week to choose the better thing? Schedule 5-10 minutes each day this coming week to pray and/or read Scripture to be more like Mary.
- *External:* In your clinicals this week, try to focus on listening to your patients, not just scrambling around to do all that needs to be done. Consider beginning each clinical with a short prayer to ask for Jesus' help to listen well to your patients.

