

*Pastor Peter's message notes from Sunday, May 10, 2020*

## Strong Women of the Bible: Mary and Martha

Do you remember the first time you invited people over for dinner? Some of my first attempts were pretty bad. I remember inviting my aunt and uncle over for dinner. I was frantically running around trying to figure things out, but they said it's okay, we can wait. The most important thing is spending time together. The most important thing is spending time together—with God.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus shows us the importance of loving our neighbors and the importance of loving ourselves. The author of Luke balances out this message to go and do the will of God with the reminder that to stay in love with God, it is important to take time to rest and listen to Jesus' words.

Two strong women of the Bible, Mary and Martha, show us how to stay in love with God. Here is the confusing part of this story. Both Martha and Mary seem to be doing the right thing. Mary is listening and learning from Jesus with the other disciples while Martha is doing many tasks of hospitality.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Am I doing the right thing?"

Martha breaks the tension by asking Jesus to decide for them what is most important. Here is Jesus' response:

**But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.' Luke 10:41-42**

When we read the full chapter of Luke 10 in one sitting, it doesn't seem to me that Jesus is saying Martha is doing the wrong thing. It's good to show love to other people by hosting them to stay at your house and cooking them dinner. But it's also important to take time to love God and to listen to Jesus.

One summer when I was a youth pastor, we took a group of students to West Virginia. One of the high school students approached me mid-week and told me that he was frustrated. He wanted to help people by doing something big and physical. He wanted to build someone a new house or help hundreds of people have enough food to eat. He wanted to do the will of God. He didn't feel like he was accomplishing anything.

I asked him to tell me how he had been serving during the week. He told me that all he had done all week was teach Bible stories to the 60 kids who were there for the summer Bible study program hosted by the local church. I had seen him serving these kids. I could see on these children's faces how much joy they experienced as he talked with them about Jesus and listened to them. To me and the other adult leaders it was clear that he meant the world to these 8-year-olds. He was living in a way that was making Jesus known to them.

I think all of us struggle to understand what the most important thing God is calling us to do is. It seems to me that at different stages in our lives we focus on different aspects of Jesus' commandment to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

I think that Mary and Martha are such strong examples of faith in the Bible because they challenge us to remember that it is important to make time to stay in love with God. They remind us to pray, read scripture, and worship God together.



## Scriptures for the coming week:

May 18:	Romans 12: 4-8
May 19:	Luke 8:1-6
May 20:	Act 18:1-6
May 21:	Acts 18: 7-17
May 22:	Acts 18:18-23
May 23:	Romans 16:3-4

## Upcoming Services

Services are 9:30 a.m. every Sunday on Facebook

- May 17: Strong Women of the Bible: Priscilla
- May 24: Strong Women of the Bible: Mary
- May 31: Pentacost—Happy, Happy Birthday

## Prayer concerns from our church family:

Ann Wilson, Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Bill Brame, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Camden Garcia, Peggy Province, the family of Jan Brothers, the family and friends of Andy Brown

## Birthdays for the coming week:

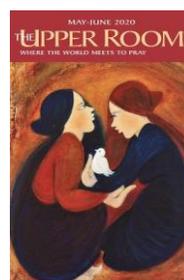
May 18:	Morgan Humphrey, Larry Kratz, Chuck Linville, Trevor Martin
May 19:	Vicki Ollison, Sherry Printz
May 20:	Collin Braun
May 21:	Barb Messer, Debra Thompson
May 22:	Jean Peter, Sophia Rodriguez
May 23:	Dale Carder, Katelyn Helmig, Lindsay King, Candy Stephens, Matthew Wildman

## Kids! A Message About Next Week's Lesson

Traveling can be a joyful experience. To be able to travel you need many things. First you need a vision of what you want your travel to be like, and then you need to create a plan to work toward that vision. But what would you do if you ran into a problem along the way? Let's see what kind of struggle Paul (Saul) gets into in Acts 9: 10-19. Join us on our Facebook group page!



Facebook: [UMCBurg.org Children & Young Families](https://www.facebook.com/UMCBurg.org-Children-&-Young-Families)  
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## Amy Holmes Reveals Challenges Of Teaching From Home During COVID-19

With the closing of schools due to COVID-19, teachers across the nation have risen to the challenge of how to best continue to educate their students. Amy Holmes, in her 27th year of teaching, is one of these educators. Amy teaches first grade at Maple Grove Elementary in Warrensburg, MO.

Once teachers in the Warrensburg R-VI school district were told they would not be returning to school after spring break, they were given one week to prepare for online and remote learning, which would start March 30. A lot went in to determine how best to meet students' needs, as Amy explained: "In order to prepare for online learning, we had meetings via Zoom with our grade level teachers and our instructional coach to formulate a list of resources for families to utilize at home in the areas of reading, math, science, social studies, social/emotional, and virtual tours. We worked for a week prioritizing the online resources (making sure each student had an account/password for each of the online sites) and also had to personally call all of our families to let them know how to access and utilize the resources. During the phone call, we confirmed that they had internet access/devices and made sure they were aware of the district meals that were still available for drive-thru pick up if they needed food assistance. Packets were also made available to families without internet access."

Because of the close connection teachers have with their students, teachers were definitely concerned about their students. Amy said, "My biggest concern regarding the school closure was definitely the mental and physical health of my students. For a 6 or 7-year-old to not be able to go to school and to have their daily routines and activities interrupted can be very stressful. The uncertainty of the situation is difficult for us as adults, so just imagine how difficult it is for them."



To keep in touch with her students, Amy meets with her class via Zoom once a week. So her students feel like she is still with them, during their first ZOOM meeting Amy introduced them to "Flat Mrs. Holmes," a cutout of herself. Amy said, "I told them I was mailing one to each of their houses so we could still 'be together.' They have had a ball emailing me photos of all the fun things we are doing. I have been playing board games, riding bikes, jumping on trampolines, eating ice cream, fishing, and even kayaking!"

Any teacher will tell you they miss being at school, and Amy is no exception. She explained, "What do I miss about being at school?... Everything! I miss my students and the staff at Maple Grove. We are a family, and even though we are staying connected as best we can during this time, it's very difficult not to be with them every day."

Amy has had to lean heavily on her faith during this time. She said, "Some days are harder than others. I don't know what it will look like or feel like once we are able to go back to school, but I know He will be with me when I walk back into my classroom again for the first time. Teaching is His calling for me, and this experience has only reminded me how very blessed I am to be able to do what I love."



### **Erickson Sews For Mission Trip**

Annette Erickson has definitely stayed busy during the stay-at-home order spending much of her time sewing items for the Jamaica mission trip next winter.

Annette said, "I sew two dresses in each size—1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 12. I hope to find some t-shirts for the boys." She has also made 16 crib-sized quilts. Annette has done this for several years. Her gifts are greatly appreciated by the Jamaican families

### **Small Groups To Start Week of May 24**

To join one of the studies or if you have additional questions, email Susan Smith at [susan@umcburg.org](mailto:susan@umcburg.org) by May 22.

1. ***It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*** is the movie with Tom Hanks about Mr. Rogers. A 6-session Bible study is available to guide discussion. Amy Holmes will lead and reports that it is now available through various streaming services.
2. ***The Teachings of Dr. Howe*** was the source for the Philippiian study during Lent. John Yost is available to continue, but the study will now be the book of James, which is a how-to manual for Christian living.
3. ***Readings in Faith*** is a flexible discussion group that will be identifying online blogs or articles that can be shared and read prior to a digital discussion meeting. Susan Smith will lead this group.
4. ***A Walk in the Desert with God***, which shares how God retrained the Hebrew nation during their 40-year walk in the wilderness, is also available. John Yost has gone through this 7-session study and offers to lead it, also.