

Dear Parents,

This week we will be learning about the importance of taking time to listen to God before we go about our daily lives. To illustrate this important principle, we will be studying the story of Mary and Martha. These sisters were close friends of Jesus and he stayed with them at their home in Bethany. Mary chose to do the best thing; listen to the teachings of Jesus, while Martha was too anxious and too busy to see how important the words of Jesus were.

### **Friends of Jesus**

#### **The Apostles** John 1:35-49 and Acts 1:12-26

Jesus needed some special disciples to help him. They were called apostles.

The first called were **Simon Peter** and **Andrew** his brother, who were fishermen. He also called two more brothers who were fishermen. They were **James** and **John**, the sons of a man named Zebedee.

Later he called others to follow him; **Philip, Bartholomew** (Nathanael), and **Matthew** (Levi), who was a tax collector. There were also five more chosen.

We learn a song to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me" to help us remember them.

Jesus called them one by one,  
Peter, Andrew, James and John,  
Next came Philip, Thomas, too,  
Matthew and Bartholomew.  
James, the one they call the Less,  
Simon, also Thaddaeus,  
The last apostle Judas made.  
Jesus was by him betrayed.

After Jesus died, rose again, and went back to the Father, **Matthias** was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, who had betrayed Jesus.

Later **Paul** was chosen to be an apostle. He wrote most of the letters in the New Testament.

#### **Mary, Martha and Lazarus**

Luke 10:38-42

Jesus had some very close friends; two sisters and their brother. Once when he was in their home, Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to his teachings. Martha, her sister, was busy getting the meal ready, and she became upset because she was having to do all the work by herself. She wanted Jesus to tell Mary to help her. Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

### **Memory verse**

But one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part,  
which shall not be taken away from her. Luke 10:42

*Listen to the story of the Call of the Apostles at: <http://gardenofpraise.com/bibl27s.htm>*