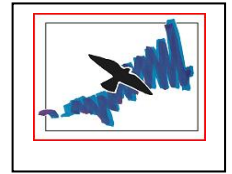


Week beginning: 17th January



THEME:
CHRISTIAN VALUE:
 Serving Jesus

To serve Jesus means to serve others. 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'

Reading Luke 10:38-42 At the Home of Martha and Mary

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."


INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME:


What does it take to serve Jesus? We need to know Jesus in order to be able to serve him and Mary knew what was in Jesus' heart. We read about Mary three times in the Bible and on each occasion she is at Jesus' feet, listening to him; getting to know him. Martha, on the other hand, is busy in the kitchen preparing food and being busy with earthly things! Martha thinks Jesus needs feeding but Mary can see that Jesus' heart is heavy and she was there for him. Martha asks Jesus to tell Mary to come and help her in the kitchen but Jesus gently tells her that Mary is making the best choice – she is listening to Jesus so she can later serve him in a different way.

GATHERING / WELCOME (This can be said and signed)

Leader: Jesus is the light of the world
All: Shine in our darkness

WORSHIP SONG - Suggested songs: To be in Your presence; Be still for the presence of the Lord; I the Lord of sea and sky; Jesus' love is very wonderful.
 (No Pianist for Assembly? No Problem 1)

Way in 1 – Spend time with someone and you learn more about them.	Idea 1 - INTRODUCING THE BIBLE STORY
<p>You will need 2 blindfolds and two volunteers. Invite your two volunteers to the front and place a blindfold on them and get them to stand with their back to the rest of the children. Carefully choose children who are in the same class and ask them to say 'I go toSchool!' (Make sure they don't say their name!) The aim is to see if the blindfolded children can recognize their classmates. Now choose some children who are not in the same class if possible or children they may not recognize and ask them to identify them from their voice alone. This may prove more difficult especially if there are a lot of children! Explain to the children that they recognize the voices of those people they spend most time with and don't recognize the voices of people who they rarely listen to or speak to. The same is true about Jesus we need to get to know him so that we recognize his voice and hear what he is saying to us.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<p>Just imagine, Jesus and his disciples are journeying and they decide to call in and stay with their good friends, Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus. They're tired and hungry but Jesus' heart is heavy and Mary, who knows Jesus well, can sense this and sits at his feet to listen to him. Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Martha is busy preparing a meal for Jesus and his friends. But Martha can't help but notice that her sister is just sitting listening to Jesus!! REFLECTION – How do you think Martha began to feel? She was so busy and needed help with the meal. She wanted to feed their special guest and look after him. There was her sister just sitting doing nothing to help! When Martha asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her he gently said 'No' and told Martha that Mary was making the right choice on this occasion. Why do you think Jesus said this? RESPONSE – Jesus wanted Martha to realize that when you spend time with someone you get to know them. Martha thought she knew what Jesus wanted but she didn't know him as well as Mary who was doing what Jesus wanted. If we get to know Jesus we will know what he wants us to do. PRAYER – Lord Jesus, you know that sometimes we forget to listen to you and we do not hear what it is you want us to do. We sometimes get more concerned with unimportant things. Help us to learn to recognize your voice in our lives and learn to know what it is you want us to do. AMEN</p>

<p>Way in 2 – Jesus uses small things</p>	<p>Idea 2 - INTRODUCING THE BIBLE STORY TO THE CHILDREN.....</p>
<p>You will need the following props: A long stick to represent Moses' rod A small round stone (the stone that David used to defeat Goliath) 5 small bread rolls or pitta breads and 2 small fishes (plastic ones will do!) Show the children each of the items and ask them if they know a story from the Bible around each of them. Remind them of the associated stories;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses used his rod to defeat the Pharaoh's armies and to part the red sea. • Using the stone describe how David, the young boy faced the giant Goliath with just a slingshot and a small stone and won! • The small boy whose 5 loaves and 2 fish fed 5000 people! <p>Sometimes we think that Jesus wants us to do great big things for him but sometimes he uses us to do small things which he makes great. It's the small things that matter in our lives.</p> 	<p>In the story of Martha and Mary we hear about Martha busying herself with cooking and cleaning – doing something for Jesus but Mary, on the hand, is just sitting quietly at Jesus' feet listening to him. Martha is so annoyed that she asks Jesus to tell Mary to come and help her.....can you just imagine the scene? Martha thinks that what she is doing is a big gesture which Jesus will appreciate more and she doesn't see that what Mary is doing is any help to Jesus at all. She thinks that keeping him well fed and the house tidy for him is more important than spending time listening to him. Jesus acknowledges that Mary is doing the right thing – something we should all remember is that Jesus wants us to listen to him and learn from him.</p> <p>REFLECTION – Ask the children to think about who they enjoy listening to. Who do they like just being around. Reflect on the fact that sometimes it's nice to sit quietly and reflect with our friends and that we don't have to be busy, busy, busy all the time.</p> <p>RESPONSE – When the children return to the classroom let them hear the story again using a different version of the Bible and then draw up a list of things they could each do that would be a small thing for Jesus such as; ask someone to join in a game; say thank you to someone who helps them; offer to help some one in need. List their suggestions and explore this within the class setting.</p> <p>PRAYER- Loving Lord, you know what we are thinking and all that we do. Help us to hear your voice and guide us and help us remember that it is in small, special actions that we can make a difference and serve you. AMEN</p>

<p>Way in 3 – Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh)!</p>	<p>Idea 3 - INTRODUCING THE BIBLE</p>
<p>Tell the following story, with the children rehearsing the following response every time they hear the words in the story, 'Martha was busy!' Children say together – 'Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh)</p> <p>One day Jesus visited his special friends Mary and Martha. He was on a journey with his friends. When Jesus walked into the house Martha was busy! - 'Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh)' Mary and Martha were so pleased to see Jesus. They welcomed him to their home but Martha was busy! - 'Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh) Whilst Martha was busy - 'Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh) Mary showed Jesus to a seat and then quietly sat at his feet. Meanwhile Martha was busy - 'Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh) Mary could see that Jesus was tired and troubled. She loved listening to what Jesus had to say. He made her feel special and she knew that soon he would be taken away from her. Time with Jesus was precious. Still Martha was busy! - 'Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh) Mary had come to know Jesus well and knew that he wanted her to listen to him but Martha was busy! - 'Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh) Martha thought that to feed Jesus and be a good hostess was more important but she was wrong! Martha looked at Mary and grew cross ! Martha was busy! 'Stir, stir, dust, dust, bake, bake – (sigh) Mary was just sitting at Jesus' feet – Martha thought she was being lazy! Martha asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her but Jesus said 'No – Mary is doing the right thing by listening to me. She knows that I won't be with you for long so she is spending her time wisely!'</p>	<p>In this story we are reminded that sometimes we make small things more important than listening to Jesus. That was what Martha did. Mary got it right – she listened to Jesus. Only when we listen to Jesus and learn from the Bible can we start to understand what we can do to serve him and how we can serve other people.</p> <p>REFLECTION – Sometimes we all get distracted and focus on the wrong things. Jesus wants us to do the right thing for the right reasons. What do we allow to distract us? What stops us from focusing on the right thing?</p> <p>PRAYER – Father God, when we start to focus on things that are not important to you please help us to listen to your voice. Show us what is important to you and be our guide. AMEN</p> 