



# Women in Scripture

## INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Martha and Mary. Complete one activity from each section. Although you may want to add this page to your Girl Scout or Camp Fire USA journal/scrapbook, you do not need to write out the answers. If you are working together as a group or troop, have discussions and/or group activities. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are an older girl or boy, learn about Miriam and teach younger children.

Once earned, Girl Scouts may place this patch on the back of the sash or vest.

Once you have learned about Martha and Mary, your leader, advisor, or parent may order the patch for you by visiting the website, [www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org](http://www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org) and clicking on the link to the NFCYM Online Store.

## Martha and Mary

Mary and Martha are great examples of what it means to serve the Lord and be with the Lord. In the Gospel of Luke, we are told that Mary and Martha are sisters. When Jesus comes to their home, they each take a different role. Mary sits at the feet of Jesus and listens to him while Martha is busy serving Jesus. Then Martha comes to Jesus and says, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." Jesus says in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her" (Luke 10:38-42).

Here we see two sisters inviting a guest into their home. The custom was for the women to serve their guests and that is why Martha begins serving Jesus. Mary on the other hand decides to sit and listen to Jesus. Martha is upset because she is doing all this work and her sister is doing "nothing." But Jesus' response tells us that Mary's choice to be with Jesus was better because she was not distracted by all the busyness like Martha was. Although Martha's intentions and actions were good, at this time Mary's actions were better because she was present to Jesus and being with him. Mary and Martha are the patrons of housewives, servants, waiters, and cooks. Martha's feast day is July 29. There is no marked feast day for Mary of Bethany, though some traditions say that she is also Mary Magdalene, whose feast day is July 22.

## Be Creative

Get some friends together and act out Luke 10:38-42 in front of your family and friends.

## LEARN AND TAKE ACTION

### For All

- Mary and Martha are a great example of what it means to help someone and be with someone. Who in your life has helped you? Who in your life was with you when you needed them? Maybe it was your mom, dad, sibling, or teacher. Write a thank-you card to that person. The next time you are with them, just sit and listen to them.
- In your own words, describes the difference between the actions of Mary and Martha. Which one do you relate to more? Why?
- Mary and Martha were hospitable. Look up the word hospitable. What does it mean? How was Mary hospitable? How was Martha hospitable? Then look up and read these passages: 1 Peter 4:9, Titus 1:8, and Matthew 25:34-40. What can you do to be more hospitable in your life?
- Let us try to be more like Mary. Go to your favorite place where you feel God's presence. This could be at your church, in your backyard, or in your room. When you are there, make yourself comfortable and begin your prayer by saying, "O Lord, I am here, and I want to be present to you." Then take a few minutes to tell Jesus what is on your mind. Then let go and listen.

### For Older Youth

- Mary and Martha show us the difference between *doing* and *being*. Mary was *being* with the Lord. Martha was *doing* for the Lord. What is the difference between *doing* and *being*? Can you do both at the same time? Why or why not? Now try it yourself. The next time you are doing a service project, try to be more present to those you are serving.
- Read John 11:1-27 and pay attention to Martha's responses. Then read John 12:1-8. What are the similarities between Mary and Martha in these accounts and the one in the Gospel of Luke? What are the differences? Now think about this. Notice that Martha is still serving, but this time she does not complain and Jesus does not say anything. What does this say about Martha? After reading these passages, what do you think is the relationship between "doing" and "being"?
- Ponder these two questions: What do you want to do? What do you want to be? Now answer them. What can you *do* to become what you want to *be*? Write down your answers and start doing them!

Like Mary and Martha, we are all called to be followers of Christ, and we are also called to know, love, and serve the Lord. These are not duties but privileges, a blessing, a gift. The next time you are spending time with your family or the next time that you do a favor for a friend, remember that both are pleasing to God. Thank him for the opportunity he has given you to be a part of his master plan.

### Why Is It?

- Women were not regarded as highly in Jesus' time as they are today. Why is it then that the accounts of Mary and Martha are in the Gospels?
- Draw a picture of Mary and Martha. What symbols would you give them? Why?

Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the  
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