

**“Prioritizing Life”**  
Series: “*Slice of Life*”  
(Part 1 of 2)

**Discussion Starter:** Give everyone a chance to answer the following question. What is one thing you would do this week, if you had one extra day to do it?

**Explore:** Read Luke 10:38-42.

Mary and Martha lived about 2 miles from Jerusalem in a little town called Bethany. They were close friends of Jesus and provide an incredible example to us about doing what is truly important in life.

1. How did Martha show kindness to Jesus and His disciples (vs. 38)?
2. In what way did Martha and her sister Mary choose to spend their time while Jesus was their guest (vs. 39-40)?
3. What did Jesus think of the sister’s choices (vs. 41-42)? What did Jesus mean when He said that “only one thing is needed”?
4. Which character can you relate to most in the story?

**Reflect:** Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. If someone were to watch you for one week, what might they say are some top priorities in your life?
2. Summarize the difference between the two types of people mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 6:31-33.
3. List consequences people suffer when their priorities are out of alignment. What consequences have you experienced as a result of living by the wrong priorities?
4. Share ways you (or your family) have been able to set and live by God inspired priorities. How have setting these priorities made a difference in your life?
5. How do you believe God is calling you to re-prioritize your life today? What will you do this week to seek first the kingdom of God?

**Live:** Take it home.

As a group: Part of being a fully devoted follower of Christ means connecting with God’s family. How has prioritizing relationships within the church been a blessing to you?

On your own: Think through (or write out) your weekly responsibilities. Honestly evaluate how you are doing at prioritizing the things that matter most. What will you do this week to rearrange your priorities?

## Listening Guide Notes

<sup>[31]</sup> “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>[32]</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>[33]</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”  
–**Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)**

### Two types of people in life:

1. Run after people.
2. Seek first people.

### What really matters in life:

1. God.

*“I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”* –**Psalm 16:8 (NIV)**

2. Family.

*“Behold, children are a gift of the LORD.”* –**Psalm 127:3 (NASB)**

3. Church.

*“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*  
–**Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)**

4. Work.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”* –**Colossians 3:23 (NIV)**

5. Rest.

*“And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.”* –**Genesis 2:3 (NIV)**

## **Prioritizing life:**

### **1. Don't wait until tomorrow.**

*“Why, you don't even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”* –**James 4:14 (NIV)**

### **2. Learn to say, “No”.**

*“Everything is permissible for me'—but not everything is beneficial.”*  
–**1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)**

### **3. Invite God to help.**

*“Lord, help me to realize how brief my time on earth will be. Help me to know that I am here but for but a moment more.”*  
–**Psalms 39:4 (LB)**