

### MY PERSONALITY



#### Introduction

It is hard to believe that you can have two totally different personalities in the same family, but this seems to be the case in the Bible story you will be studying. The scene is the home of sisters Martha and Mary (and their brother Lazarus, whom Jesus would later raise from the dead). It seems that Jesus spent time in their home frequently.

After someone has read the Scripture passage, get into groups of 4 and discuss the questionnaire. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers—just your opinion—so you don't have to be afraid to share.

1. Judging by the way the two sisters acted in this story, which would you say was the older sister?  
 Mary  Martha
2. If you had been Martha, how would you have responded to Jesus' remark?  
 gone to my room and pouted  
 thought to myself: "He doesn't have to live with my sister."  
 flown off the handle  
 accepted the correction, sat down with Mary, and let the supper burn
3. If you could choose one of these types of people for these situations, who would you choose? Finish the sentences by inserting either Mary ... or Martha.
  - For a close friend, I would choose ...
  - For someone to work for, I would choose ...
  - For someone to work for me, I would choose ...
  - For someone to look after my estate, I would choose ...
  - For my small group leader or youth leader, I would choose ...
4. Comparing your personality to the two people in this story, which of them are you more like?  
 Martha—responsible and uptight  
 Mary—carefree and laid-back
5. Who do people say you take after in your personality—your father or your mother? Which one do you think you take after?

**AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY**

<sup>38</sup>As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup>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!"

<sup>41</sup>"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup>but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42

6. Of the four classic personality types below, which type do you resemble? Read over all four types, and choose two that describe you: (a) Your dominant type, (b) Your secondary type.

Finish the sentence: *I am mostly the \_\_\_\_\_ type and a little bit of the \_\_\_\_\_ type.*

**SANGUINE:** People centered. Warm. Outgoing. Sociable. A good salesperson. Loves parties and shopping—just about anything that has to do with people.

**CHOLERIC:** Task centered. Strong-willed. Natural born leader. Loves challenges. Responsible. Good at making things happen. Likes to win. Takes chances.

**MELANCHOLIC:** Feelings centered. Sensitive. Introspective. Creative. Artistic. Lover of peace and quiet. Good dreamer. Writer. Expresses self in poetry.

**PHLEGMATIC:** Team centered. Dependable. Consistent. Organized. Good at getting things done. Methodical. Loves a neat room, a clean car, and running around with people who are the opposite.

7. If you could change something about your personality, what would it be?
8. If Jesus dropped in on you, what would he point out that distracts you from the most important things in life?
9. How could others in your group or church help you in this?
- by helping me understand what is going on inside of me
  - by leaving me alone
  - by telling me it's okay to be me
  - by sharing some of their own struggles
  - by challenging me to be all that I can be
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Jesus said Martha was "worried and upset about many things." What are you worried or upset about right now?
11. How can this group remember you in prayer this week?