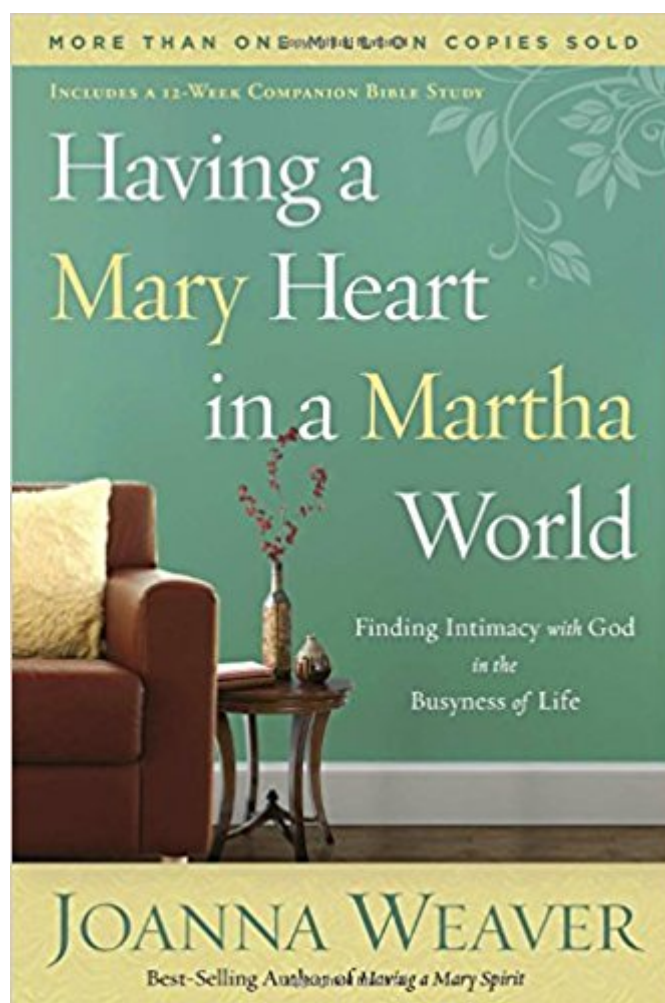


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# Having A Mary Heart In A Martha World: Finding Intimacy With God In The Busyness Of Life



## Synopsis

With nearly a million copies sold, Joanna Weaver's popular book shows women how to blend intimacy with Jesus and service for Him. An invitation for every woman who feels she isn't godly enough... isn't loving enough... isn't doing enough. The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet... but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him... yet you struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy. Then comes Jesus, right into the midst of your busy Mary/Martha life-and he extends the same invitation he issued long ago to the two sisters of Bethany. Tenderly he invites you to choose "the better part"-a joyful life of "living-room" intimacy with him that flows naturally into "kitchen service" for him. How can you make that choice? With her fresh approach to the familiar Bible story and its creative, practical strategies, Joanna shows how all of us -Marys and Marthas alike- can draw closer to our Lord, deepening our devotion, strengthening our service, and doing both with less stress and greater joy. This book includes a twelve-week Bible study. Also look for the ten-week DVD study pack companion product to this book, which includes three DVDs and a separate, revised and expanded study guide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Often a book fails to live up to its title, but Joanna Weaver's *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* more than lives up to its promise. I found the book easy to read, personal, and well-written with a message much more than surface deep. The book probed, challenged, and

encouraged me to live day by day as a Mary in a Martha world, while showing the positive qualities of both Mary and Martha personalities. Readers will be blessed!

—Carole Mayhall, author of *Come Walk with Me* and *Here I Am Again, Lord*

“Joanna Weaver has a heart that sings. Whenever I am around her, she makes me smile. Her voice rings out true and clear in *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. This book invites us to join in the chorus of daily communion with Christ, despite the pressures that threaten to silence us. Consider it as sheet music for your soul.

—Robin Jones Gunn, best-selling author of *The Christy Miller* series

“Balance. That’s what it is all about, and Joanna Weaver has found it, described it, and called us to this wonderful, practical work. If you have ever struggled with how you can find one quiet moment while longing for a deep holy communion or if you have been discouraged because neither seems possible, you will be challenged and blessed by *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*!

—Jan Silvius, author of *Foolproofing Your Life*

“With candor, humor, and passion Joanna Weaver invites us to cultivate a “Mary heart” that delights in time with God and assigns him top priority. Yet she doesn’t discard the service-oriented Martha. Instead, she wisely and practically models how to balance the Mary and Martha qualities in us all. I especially appreciate her thoughts on expressing lavish love to God and to humanity.

—Judith Couchman, *Designing a Woman’s Life* author and seminar leader

Updated with a new 12 week companion Bible study, Joanna Weaver’s popular book shows women how to blend intimacy with Jesus and service for Him. An invitation for every woman who feels she isn’t godly enough...isn’t loving enough...isn’t doing enough. The life of a woman today isn’t really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord’s feet...but the daily demands of a busy world just won’t leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him...yet you struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy. Then comes Jesus, right into the midst of your busy Mary/Martha life-and he extends the same invitation he issued long ago to the two sisters of Bethany. Tenderly he invites you to choose “the better part”—a joyful life of “living-room” intimacy with him that flows naturally into “kitchen service” for him. How can you make that choice? With her fresh approach to the familiar Bible story and its creative, practical strategies, Joanna shows how all of us—Marys and Marthas alike—can draw closer to our Lord, deepening our devotion, strengthening our service, and doing both with less stress and greater joy.

This is such a great book for all women to read.. Many of us fall under the same patterns that Martha did, but in this world the Lord calls us to be more like Mary, sitting at the throne and allowing Him to pour into us and love us and mold us. I recommend this to any woman who is constantly on the go and feels the need to always be busy to feel validated; I know this is me many times.

This book is more than a guide to "Finding Intimacy With God in the Busyness of Life." I'd call it "A Woman's Introduction to Christian Living and Spiritual Disciplines." It covers the spiritual disciplines of Bible study, hospitality, prayer, and several others. At times, the analogies seemed a bit forced, and the messages are repeated over and over. But sometimes, I think we need that repetition to get things through our thick (or just tired) minds. I picked up *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy With God in the Busyness of Life* during a time when I was completely overwhelmed, but I didn't read it until a time when I was free from care. It's sad that when we're swamped, we feel like we lack the bandwidth to do what our souls really need.

This is a great book and will definitely lead to some life changes if you take it to heart. The author does an excellent job of taking you through her own personal journey. Doing so includes the reader and allows the reader to relate to her story and well as your own story. No wonder it is considered a best seller! I will be teaching from this book in an entire weeklong class (in a few weeks) and I can't wait!!! Great spiritual material with a well thought out message.

I adore the title of this book. It extrapolates on one of the most beloved New Testament passages when Martha, working herself harried in the kitchen to serve a bunch of men who have suddenly arrived and expect refreshments, finds her sister, Mary, sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening rapt to his teaching. Martha is upset and asks Jesus to tell Mary to get up and help her! Now! But Jesus says no. Mary "has the better part." So the question author Joanna Weaver wrestles with is how to have a Mary heart (mature spirituality and the time for God each day) in a Martha world (where job, husband, kids and activities vie for your time). The book is quite readable, well organized with interesting stories intermixed with theology. Since I come from a mainline Protestant denomination, I had some trouble (OK, at times a lot of trouble) with the strong--almost passionate--evangelical point of view that dominates this book. It felt alienating, and for this reason I give it three stars. One note: I found--and reported to , since I was reading this on a Kindle--38 punctuation errors, mostly missing or misplaced apostrophes.

Being very new to Bible reading and studying I did find myself challenged at times. Part of the challenge was honestly answering the questions in the study section. In this book and study guide I was inspired to take a closer look at my spiritual walk and purpose.

Life-changing! Read this book with a group of friends. We are all in our late 20's and it had such a profound impact on our lives. It was challenging, comforting, affirming and inspiring. I've bought several copies for most of the women in my family both young and old. I am so grateful that Joanna Weaver was obedient and completed this book! It has changed my life and the way I pursue my time with Jesus!

"Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" is a wonderful book to read alone or with a group study. There is a very good DVD study and study guide that accompanies this book if desired. Joanna Weaver does a great job showing how the busyness of the world around us can pull us away from truly being in God's presence, even if it seems we are doing things we think will please Him. She states, "When we put work before worship, we put the cart before the horse," and "When we first spend time in His presence--when we take time to hear His voice--God provides the horsepower we need to pull the heaviest load." We all need to choose the better part and spend time out of the kitchen and in the living room, sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Great read, definitely found myself saying, "That's me!" over & over again. Great perspective for women feeling overwhelmed by life, and a guilt complex for not serving God in formal church-related ways. Helps show how we can & do serve God in our everyday lives & how we serve him when we stop to listen to Him.

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