

December 2011

# THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

## Have a Very “Mary” Christmas

Black Friday shopping. Decorating. Cooking. Cleaning. Cyber Monday. Party. Concert. More shopping. More cooking. More wrapping. More...

*Phew!* No wonder we're exhausted by the time the new year rolls around. We've had headaches from fretting, ringing bells in our ears, and heartburn from the undigested annoyance of being stuck in the slowest checkout line...again.

Yes, we know Jesus is the reason for the season, but every Christmas it seems there's a rematch of the classic Mary versus Martha battle....Martha in one corner, clutching a “to-do” list a mile long, fussing and fretting, and Mary, in the other corner, sitting on the floor in her sweatpants, Bible open on her lap, totally lost in her Jesus space.

Who will win the battle in your life this Christmas season? *Will you spend more time worshipping or working?* Here are four tips to help you have a very “Mary” Christmas this year:

1. **Sit down.** Stop doing and start sitting. There will always be more “doing.” Sit down anyway. Jesus is waiting for you.
2. **Listen.** Peace and quiet is optional. Mary sat and listened to Jesus in the midst of pots and pans banging, her sister complaining, and guests milling about. Turn your head, and amid the chaos you'll hear Jesus, too.
3. **Give an offering.** Martha thought the most valuable thing to give Jesus was a good meal, but Mary poured herself out at his feet to listen and to learn from him. What do you consider more valuable than Jesus? Time? Work? Ministry? Stuff? Offer it to him as a present from the heart this Christmas.
4. **Worship.** Minimize the commercialism, and maximize the symbolism. Surround yourself with things that remind you of the real reason you celebrate—Jesus, the Word made flesh, come to earth to serve and to save.

Sitting at his feet, valuing relationship over performance, Mary demonstrated the posture of a worshipful woman, servant, and friend. *You can too.*

*Wishing You a Very Mary Christmas!*

LifeSpring  
Women



### THE WORD

**“But the Lord said to her, 'My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.'”**

—Luke 10:41-42

### THINK ABOUT IT

**Details I am worried about:**

**The one thing I need to be concerned about:**

## Twelve Days of Devotion



No 12 days of French hens and leaping lords this Christmas! Unwrap the gift of Jesus, and experience the real joy of the season.

Create your own 12 days of devotion by reading and meditating on a portion of the Christmas story in Luke, chapter 2, each day. Or wrap your 12 favorite Scripture verses in pretty boxes or cards, and open the gift of God's promise for 12 days. Create "12 days of devotion" gifts for friends, family members, or a person going through a difficult time. Make it even more special by adding mini chocolates along with the Scriptures, to help them "taste and see that the Lord is good"!

## Cooking the Mary Way

Kick Martha (and Martha Stewart) out of the kitchen, and just have fun! This "un-recipe" is great for cooking with kids or a group of girlfriends. Set out a variety of the ingredients listed below, along with dishes and utensils, and let the creating begin. (Don't forget to mix in love and laughter!)

- Mini graham cracker crusts
- Sugar cookies
- Chocolate and vanilla pudding
- Fruit pie filling
- Frozen (thawed) or fresh strawberries
- Bananas
- Candy bar crumbles
- Coconut
- Peanut butter
- Chocolate chips
- Cream cheese
- Whipped topping
- Christmas sprinkles

Have each person give their "recipe" a creative holiday name, and share your favorite Christmas memories together while you eat.



## Silent Night, Holy Night

*Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright.*

"Silent Night" was written by a small-town Austrian priest, Father Joseph Mohr, in the early 1800s. Put to music by Franz Gruber, it was first sung in Oberndorf, Austria, by a small congregation, with a guitar accompaniment, on Christmas Eve 1818. The words and music of "Stille Nacht" captured the heart and holiness of the birth of Jesus so beautifully, it was destined to spread from its humble birthplace to become a favorite Christmas hymn around the world.

Recapture the beauty of this hymn with your family and friends this Christmas season by sharing it in a special way. In a popular ritual in Austrian churches, families bring a lantern or candle with them to the midnight Christmas Eve service. At the conclusion of the service, the priest lights a special candle to symbolize the birth of Jesus. As families leave, they stop and light their lantern from the candle to symbolize taking the light of Jesus into the world.

Share the wonder and light of Jesus' birth this Christmas by taking your own lantern and candles and stopping at homes to sing "Silent Night." Then light a candle from yours to leave with them and pass the light of Jesus on to the world!



## LifeSpring Corner



### Kids Hope at LifeSpring ~[www.kidshopeusa.org](http://www.kidshopeusa.org)



*"Once hope enters a child's heart, anything is possible."* John Ortberg

*This is my fourth year of mentoring a little girl through "Kid's Hope". I am 76 years old, my children are grown and I began mentoring with feelings of being "out of touch" because of my age and lack of contact with children. If I had known what a blessing this little girl could be in my life, I would not have had second thoughts.*

*God is continuously blessing me in growth, new interests, contact with school, teachers, lots of children, and other wonderful mentors. I am challenged, encouraged, prayerful, and feel divinely supported. A wonderful addition to the ministry is the availability of a prayer partner with whom we can share concerns, needs and find support.*

*Please consider this ministry as a place you might serve. These children need us to be there for them each week, to nurture and encourage and "love up" on them. In doing so, we become the "blessed ones". Love it! I am available to share if you need ideas, information, direction and I believe other mentors would be willing to share as well. Lisa Kennison is an amazing support. She always takes time to listen and advise.*

*Please help one child! Ann Howes*

Two children are still waiting for mentors: a 5th grader named Hayley and a 1st grader named Teresa. Contact Lisa Kennison for more information on how you can get involved at (970) 667-4730x12 or [lisak@lifespringchurch.org](mailto:lisak@lifespringchurch.org)

### New Women's Bible Study coming in January 2012

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple.

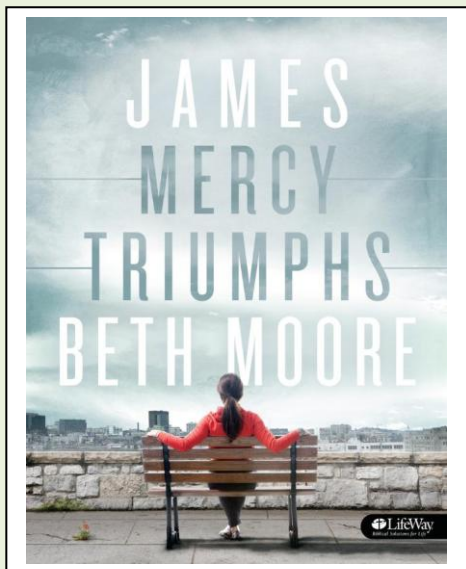
Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any New Testament book. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer.

Take a peek at the information and questions for this study located on the LifeSpring Women's Ministry webpage (scroll down to "Bible Studies") [www.LifeSpringChurch.org/ministries/adults/women](http://www.LifeSpringChurch.org/ministries/adults/women)

*All Women are Welcome!* This study, on the book of James, will begin in January and be offered 4 different times during the week. It will be a combination of DVD sessions and weekly homework. All groups will meet at the church. We hope one of the below options will fit your schedule:

- \* Monday 9:00 a.m.
- \* Thursday 9:15 a.m.
- \* Thursday 7:00 p.m.
- \* Sunday 8:45 a.m.

If want more information or interested in becoming a facilitator, please contact Linda Kalmes at (970) 493-0381.



# December

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				<b>Women's Bible Study 9:15a</b> Nancy U. <u>970-593-9657</u> <b>Women's Bible Study 7p</b> Linda K. 970-493-0381	"Girl Time" at Dazbog coffee in downtown Loveland on Lincoln, 7 pm in back conference room.	 <b>Christmas Home Tours 4-7pm.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> week of Advent</b>  <b>Women's Bible Study 8:45a</b> Elaine D. 970-689-2138				<b>Women's Bible Study 9:15a</b> Nancy U. <u>970-593-9657</u> <b>Women's Bible Study 7p</b> Linda K. 970-493-0381		 <b>Christmas On the Corner 4:30-7:30pm</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent</b>  Sew Together ... <u>11a-3p</u> <b>Women's Prayer Group 3p in prayer rm</b>	<b>Widows Luncheon 12p</b>			<b>Prime Timers 5:30p</b>		
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent</b>  Christmas Eve service 5p & 7p 						
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Women's Prayer Group 3p in prayer rm</b>					Last day of 2011 

## Contact for more information

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