



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Series:** A-MAZE-IN Life  
Summer Year 2, Lesson 2

# Time...What Will You Choose?

**Take Home Point:** \*Let God guide your choices.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Luke 10:38-42. Mary and Martha

**Key Verse:** Psalm 90:12, "Teach us to number each of our days so that we may grow in wisdom."

**We will help kids know:**

- Choosing to spend time enjoying God is one of the most important activities of the day.
- Invest their time in that which has lasting value, such as people and developing character.
- The Bible event of Mary and Martha.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Inspired and encouraged to spend more time with God.
- More aware of the consequences of their choices.

**We will help kids do:**

- Play a warm up game using pennies to purchase activities they would like to spend time doing.
- Play a game just spending time enjoying another's company.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids are given a chart and 24 pennies to record choices on how they would spend their time in a given twenty-four hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 pennies per student</li> <li>• a "Spending Time" sheet per student (p. 19)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  8  9	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> The Keeper of the Clues introduces him/herself and explains that the Maze Master (God) helps us through the A-MAZE-IN adventure of life. Two contestants, a boy and girl, travel through a maze of questions in the choices they make with their time.</p> <p><b>Bible Event:</b> Luke 10:38-42---How Mary and Martha each chose to use her time.</p> <p><b>Concluding object lesson:</b> A rough rock and a smooth stone are visuals that illustrate the effects of continual wearing compared with habits developed over time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a sports jacket for the Keeper of the Clues (Tape paper question marks all over the jacket.)</li> <li>• eighteen maze clue sheets--One side has an "X" or "O" printed. <i>The backsides of 16 sheets have a question printed on them.</i> Make two copies of each question (p. 11-18) and one blank backside X and O.</li> <li>• diagram of X and O maze (p. 20)</li> <li>• <i>Option 1:</i> video---<i>The Miracle Maker</i>, (by Family Home Entertainment, 1999)---the story of Mary and Martha and how each chose to use her time.</li> <li>• <i>Option 2:</i> props to act out Mary and Martha Bible event, such as headpieces for Mary, Martha and Jesus and some table settings or tableware</li> <li>• two small rocks: one smooth, one rough</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5	Kids play a game just spending time enjoying another's company. They discuss how this is like spending time with God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Tic Tac Four" game card (p. 21) per pair of students</li> <li>• 24 pennies for each pair of students</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

**As kids gather:** *Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.*

*Supplies needed: 24 pennies and a “Spending Time” sheet per student*

Give each kid a “Spending Time” chart. Explain that each block on the chart represents an activity they might do in a week. Two of the boxes are empty. Have kids fill in their choice of activities for these blocks.

Next, have kids pick any day of the week and think about how they would spend their time that day and the choice of activities with which they would fill their day. Say:

**You have twenty-four hours that you are going to spend doing activities beginning at 12:01 in the morning and ending at 12:00 midnight. I will give each of you twenty-four pennies that represent twenty-four hours. Each penny represents one hour.**

**Stack as many pennies in a block as you want. Each penny represents the number of hours you choose to spend on that activity. You can place a penny between two squares, which would mean thirty minutes in each.**

Allow kids a few minutes to arrange their pennies on the chart. Then discuss the choices the kids made and why they made them.

Conclude with the following:

**Imagine that every morning your piggy bank was filled with 86,400 pennies. That is 864 dollars. Every bit of that has to be spent every day. But here is one condition: No amount can be carried over to the next day. If you fail to spend it, the money is gone.**

**What would you do with such a gift? You would probably draw out and spend every cent each day. That is very much like the gift of time. God gives you 86,400 seconds every day. And every night he erases all that you fail to use.**

**Today we want to examine what is the best way to not just spend our time but to invest it. I think we will need to *\*let God guide our choices.***

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**Introduction:** The Keeper of the Clues introduces him/herself and explains that the Maze Master (God) helps us through the A-MAZE-IN adventure of life. Two contestants, a boy and girl, travel through a maze of questions in the choices they make with their time.

**Bible Event:** Luke 10:38-42---How Mary and Martha each chose to use her time.

**Concluding object lesson:** A rough rock and a smooth stone are visuals that illustrate the effects of continual wearing compared with habits developed over time.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have students refer to Luke 10:38-42 in their Bibles.

**What did Martha spend her time doing?** (Luke 10:40. She was doing much work, probably in preparing food for Jesus.)

**What did Mary spend her time doing?** (Luke 10:39. She sat at Jesus' feet listening to him.)

### Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Do you think Martha was doing anything wrong?** (No, she was doing work that needed to be done, but Luke 10:41 says Jesus told her she was worrying and fussing about a lot of things.)

**Jesus said that Mary had made the right choice. What do you think "that one thing will not be taken from her" meant?** (Luke 10:42. The time Mary invested with Jesus will have eternal value.)

**How does this compare with what Martha invested her time in?**  
*(Things of this world will pass away.)*

**Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**  
**How can we sit at Jesus' feet like Mary?** *(We can invest our time with Jesus in praise and worship and reading God's word.)*

Application Activity:

*Supplies: Tic Tac Four game card and twenty-four pennies for each pair of students*

Pass out the game card, Tic Tac Four, and twenty-four pennies to every two students. One player's tokens are the "head" side of the coin, the other player's tokens are the "tails". Explain that the object of the game is to get four pennies in a row. Each player takes a turn and tries to connect his pennies vertically, diagonally, or horizontally while trying to block his opponent.

After the kids play the game once or twice, ask them if this is a wise investment of time. *(You are not looking for a right or wrong answer, just challenging the kids to think.)* They will probably assume that you want to hear that it is not a good investment of time.

The truth is that this can be a great investment of time if it helps one grow in traits such as patience or kindness. It is also of value if it helps kids better connect or relate to others.

Play another round of the game. This time before each turn, the student must describe something about him/herself that the other person may not know. Afterwards, point out that this helps to deepen their relationships.

Conclude with a discussion of how much time each kid spends with God. Share with them your own personal devotional habits, or if that is not a good model, perhaps what you are striving toward. Say:

**Our key verse from Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number each of our days so that we may grow in wisdom."**

**What does that mean to you? How can we invest our time so that it will have an eternal impact?**

Talk about the following ways to develop quality time with God every day.

**To begin, choose a time and stick with it. Many times this can be the first thing you do in the morning. Or you get in the habit of spending time with God before you ever watch TV, to ensure you do it. Or for some, it might be the last thing you do at night.**

**Next, make a plan for what you will read. You can mark your Bible and read through a chapter or half a chapter a night. A good**

book to start reading is the book of John. Or you could read Proverbs, which has a chapter for every day of the month. Another helpful tool is a devotional book.

Finally, take time in prayer. Just like in the game where we were sharing things with each other, so it is with prayer. We share our lives with God. He helps us understand what our needs are and God is eager to meet our needs for the best in his kingdom.

Today we learned that we should *\*let God guide our choices* in how we spend or invest our time.

Closing Prayer:

Have a circle prayer with every kid offering a request about how they can better use their time this summer. Pray that they would develop habits that invest their time growing closer to God.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## The A-MAZE-IN Life...What Will You Choose?

Time

*Props needed:*

- *a sports jacket for the Keeper of the Clues. Tape paper question marks all over the jacket*
- *eighteen maze clue sheets---One side has an "X" or "O" printed. The backsides of 16 sheets have a question printed on them.*
- *Option 1: "The Miracle Maker"---the story of Mary and Martha and the way they chose to spend their time*
- *Option 2: props to act out Mary and Martha Bible event, such as headpieces for Mary, Martha and Jesus and some table settings or tableware*
- *two small rocks: one smooth, one rough*

*Setting: Prepare a grid of eighteen maze clue sheets in the presentation area. To put them in the correct location on the grid, they are labeled like this O-1, O-3. This tells us that this question will be on the backside of two "O," girl questions in row one, etc. (See diagram.)*

*The presenter for this series is the Keeper of the Clues. He (she) can develop personality and costuming according to his own interpretation. Make the person fun.*

Introduction:

The Keeper of the Clues Begins:

**Welcome, kids, to the maze of life and all the choices you face. Yes, you know that life is meant to be an A-MAZE-IN adventure. But mazes can be hazardous as well. Some of your choices may lead you to dead ends and detours. Along the way, as you seek God's direction, you will discover that he is the Maze Master who will lead you on a path that encounters him. As a matter of fact, every day he invites you to make choices that lead you to the destination of meeting his own Son Jesus, who will lead you through the maze of life. Your final destination can be a wonderful life with him forever.**

**Before we have two volunteers go through today's maze, watch (or listen) to the Bible event about Mary and Martha and the choices that each one of them made. Think about which one made a good choice and which one made a better choice and what made that choice better.**

At this time, the Keeper of the Clues presents the Bible event of Mary and Martha, either by showing it from the video clip, *Miracle Maker*, or reading it from the Bible. *Option:* Bring actors onstage to act it out as it is being read.

After the Bible event, continue with:

**I am the Keeper of the Clues who will give you clues to help in your choices throughout the maze. Today, we are looking at the choices you make in how you spend your time. First, I need two brave volunteers, a boy and a girl.**

Have two volunteers come forward.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Insert boy representative's name) **will represent the boys' team and** \_\_\_\_\_ (girl representative's name) **for the girls' team.**

**The object of the game is to begin at one side of the maze and complete your journey until you finally reach this destination on the other side.** Refer to the last X and O squares at the end of the maze.

**Our boy representative can step only on the Xs and our girl representative will step only on the Os.**

**There are questions on the backs of each X and O. If you get the question right and don't meet a detour or dead end, you may go on to the next row. You may step on the next X or O your foot can reach. Sit there until it is your turn to stand, read the question and answer it. Are you ready to begin?**

Let the girl begin first, having her step to an "O." Read the back, and answer the question. Next, have a boy step on an "X" and read the question on back. Continue in like manner. This is the order of questions:

***Girls: When you have something to do that you don't like, would you rather do it right away and get it over and then go play, or do you first go play and do the chore later?***

**Boys: It is summer vacation. What time should you get up? What time does your mom say you should get up?**

***Girls: You need to learn that the little choices you make now can make a big difference in your future. We watched the video clip of the "Miracle Maker." Tell me whose your behavior is generally most like—Mary or Martha?***

**Boys: Give me an example of what you think might be one of the biggest wastes of time that you could do. After answering, tell me what is one of the greatest investments of your time.**



***Girls: DETOUR. You have been busy doing many good things, but YOU MISSED THE BEST THING! Skip a turn. What was the BEST thing Mary did?***

**Boys: If you were to spend time doing something that really helped develop your character, what would you do?**

Next square is for boys again.

**Boys: Did you or any boy in this room spend at least five minutes every day this last week reading the Bible and praying? If not, you have reached a Dead End. Sit down. You are finished.**

***Girls: Did you or any girl in this room spend at least five minutes every day this last week reading the Bible and praying? If not, you have reached a Dead End. Sit down. You are finished.***

Say:

**The Keeper of the Clues has a bonus question to offer as a way out of the Dead End. Here is the question: What did Jesus do to make it possible for him to spend forever with you? *(He came to earth and lived a perfect life. Then he died on the cross for my sins and the sins of the world so we do not have to experience the penalty for sin.)***

Let whichever contestant raises his/her hand first, answer. If the contestant gets it wrong, you may let the contestant's other teammates respond until the correct answer is given.

Bonus Question #2 for the other contestant:

**Who really owns your time? *(God.)***

Again, if the contestant gets it wrong, let his/her teammates answer.

**Let's give a round of applause for the two contestants who have made it through the maze.**

Concluding object lesson:

Take from your pocket a smooth stone and another rock about the same size but not polished or smooth. Say:

**Kids, what makes these two stones different? They both are about the same size.**

**Perhaps they are composed of similar materials, but one is rough and one is very smooth. How did the one become so smooth? Does**

anyone know? It came from a river bottom that helps smooth out its edges. But how does it get smooth as it sits at the bottom of the river? *(The kids will likely guess that the water moving over it smooths it out.)*

This may be partially true, but the greater reason for the smoothness of the stone is that other smaller rocks and sand tumble against it while in the river. The sand and small rocks may not seem like very strong forces, but the continual tumbling produces a big effect.

This is also true in regard to making choices about our time. Sometimes the little things that we do, if we do them over and over and over again, make the biggest impact. For example, a habit is something we do over and over again until it has a powerful effect. Unfortunately, some of the habits that we let ourselves get into may not have positive effects on us. But some of the habits we choose now and do over and over and over our whole life can have a great impact.

One of the most important habits we can develop is to spend time, actually invest time, with God every day. This can be as simple as reading the Bible and asking for God to talk to you in his word. Then talk back to God in prayer. This time spent with God may only be five minutes, but if you do it every day, it can have the same effect as this rock. God will make smooth the rough edges in our life.

Let's pray about that before we go back to our small groups.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you want to spend time with us, and you want us to spend time with you. We need to be like Mary, who wanted to simply remove all the other distractions of life and spend time listening to you and learning more about you. We know that Jesus gave his life for us so that we can be forgiven for the times we ignore you or get too busy for you. So, we pray that you would forgive us and help us want to spend time with you. Help us to want to learn more about you. Help us follow your truth every day in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**When you have something to do that you don't like, would you rather do it right away and get it over and then go play, or do you first go play and do the chore later?**

**It is summer vacation.  
What time should you get  
up? What time does your  
mom say you should get  
up?**

**You need to learn that the little choices you make now can make a big difference in your future. We watched the video clip of the “*Miracle Maker.*” Tell me whose your behavior is generally most like—Mary or Martha?**

**Give me an example of what you think might be one of the biggest wastes of time that you could do. After answering, tell me what is one of the greatest investments of your time.**

**DETOUR. You have been busy doing many good things, but YOU MISSED THE BEST THING! Skip a turn. What was the BEST thing Mary did?**

**If you were to spend time doing something that really helps develop your character, what would you do?**

X-10, X-11



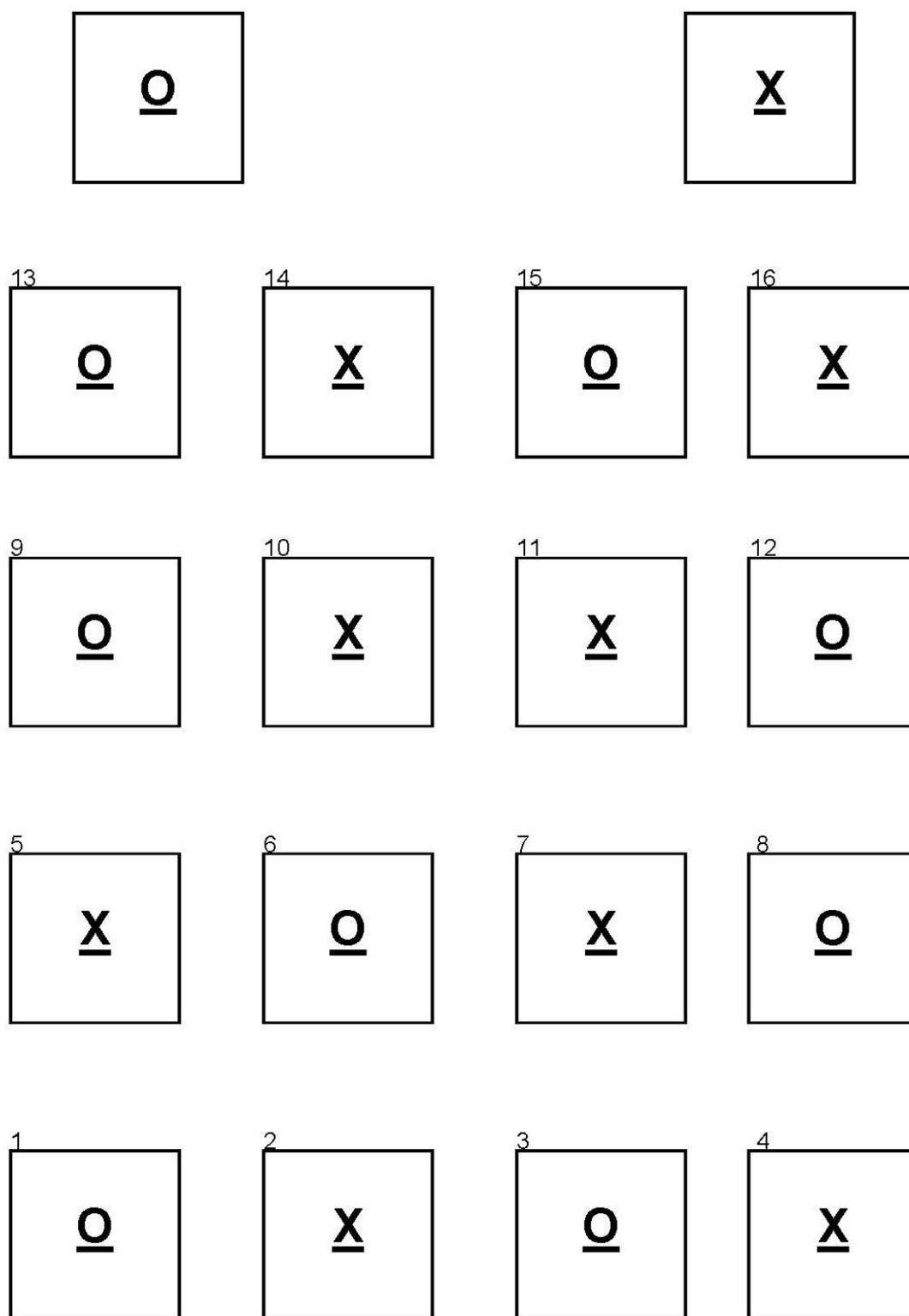
**Did you or any boy in this room spend at least five minutes every day this last week reading the Bible and praying? If not, you have reached a Dead End. Sit down. You are finished.**

**Did you or any girl in this room spend at least five minutes every day this last week reading the Bible and praying? If not, you have reached a Dead End. Sit down. You are finished.**

## Spending Time

Each penny equals one hour. Stack as many pennies in a block as you want. You can place a penny between two squares, which would mean 30 minutes in each.

<b>Eating</b>	<b>Playing video games</b>	<b>Board games</b>	<b>Talking on the phone</b>
<b>Sleeping</b>	<b>Watching T.V.</b>	<b>Chores</b>	<b>Playing on the computer</b>
<b>Hanging out with friends</b>	<b>Playing sports</b>	<b>Vacation</b>	
<b>Listening to a wise senior citizen</b>	<b>Reading a book</b>	<b>Swimming</b>	



## Tic Tac Four
