

Having a
“*Mary*”
Christmas
in a
Martha World
Advent 2014

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

© 2014 Heart of Mary Women's Fellowship

WWW.HEARTOFMARYWF.COM

@HEARTOFMARYWF

#HOMWF

ABOUT THIS STUDY...

Having a "Mary" Christmas in a Martha World: an Advent study to help focus ourselves on the true meaning of Christmas. Just like the sisters Martha & Mary, there are two approaches to the Christmas season that we, as women, can take. We can run around in the hustle & bustle of cooking, cleaning, obligatory parties and gift giving, and quickly run out of time, patience, and possibly money. Or we can begin to say "no" to some of the worldly requirements and place ourselves at the feet of Jesus - adoring Him and thanking Him for the gift that is Himself.

Together, let's reflect and learn how to have a "Mary" Christmas.

Each day has a theme, recommended bible verses, key ideas, and reflection questions. There is an additional "Notes" page that can be reprinted if you need more writing room.

Did You Know?

The Martha & Mary in our Advent Study title are sisters, from Luke 10:38-42, but this Mary is not the same Mary as the Mother of Jesus. When reflecting, we can think of the example of Mary, the sister of Martha or we can think of Our Mother, the Virgin Mary. Both were exemplary women who had their priorities first on the kingdom & glory of God.

DAY

1

What is a *miracle*?

TODAY'S READING:

Philippians 4:19; Psalm 77:14; 1 Kings 17:13-15; Luke 1:38

Miracles are not a contradiction to nature.
They are only in contradiction to what we know of nature.

- St. Augustine

Notes:



PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

PRAY WITH *Mary*

NOTES:

Lined writing area for notes, featuring a faint background watermark of a circular geometric pattern with a central starburst.

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
3

Opening our
Hearts & Homes
When It's Inconvenient

TODAY'S READING:
Matthew 25:35; Luke 2:7; Romans 12:9-18

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend
hospitality to strangers.
- Romans 12:13

Notes:



PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
4

Preparing Room In Our
Hearts

TODAY'S READING:

Job 11:13; Luke 2:1-20; Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion,
shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your King shall come to you; a just savior is He.

- Zechariah 9:9a

Notes:

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
5

Blessed Like *Mary*

TODAY'S READING:

Luke 1:39-56; 1 John 4:10-12; John 13:34; Acts 2:42; Psalm 55:13-14; Acts 1:14

Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?

- Luke 1:42-43

Notes:

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
6

Handling Rejection with *Grace*

TODAY'S READING:

John 15:12-27; John 14:6; Luke 10:27

Optional: Genesis 21:8-21; 2 Samuel 13:7-19; Matthew 15:21-28; Luke 13:10-17; John 8:1-11

If the world hates you,
realize that it hated me first.
- John 15:18

Notes:

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
7

Road Rage to Bethlehem

TODAY'S READING:
Luke 2:1-7; Psalm 105:4; Psalm 95:8-9; Revelation 2:2-5; Luke 6:46-49

...You have endurance and have suffered for my name,
and you have not grown weary...
- Revelation 2:3

Notes:



PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
8

I *Deserve* This...

TODAY'S READING:

Luke 10:38-42; 1 Corinthians 4:7; James 1:16-17; Luke 18:22-24;

Do not be deceived...all good giving & every perfect gift comes from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change.

- James 1:16-17

Notes:

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
9

Love of *Gifts*

TODAY'S READING:

James 1:17; John 3:16; 1 John 5:14-15; 1 Peter 4:10-11

For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and this is not from you;
but it is a gift from God.
- Ephesians 2:8

Notes:



PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
10

Presents vs. *Presence*

TODAY'S READING:

John 15:11; Hebrews 3:1-6; Colossians 3:2

These things I have spoken to you,
that my joy maybe in you, and that your joy may be full.
- John 15:11

Notes:

Lined writing area with 19 horizontal lines and a faint background illustration of two figures, likely a woman and a child, in profile.

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
11

Exhaustion vs. *Obligation*

TODAY'S READING:

Romans 8:12; Romans 13

Owe nothing to anyone,
except to love one another.
- Romans 13:8

Notes:



PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
12

Making *Memories*

TODAY'S READING:

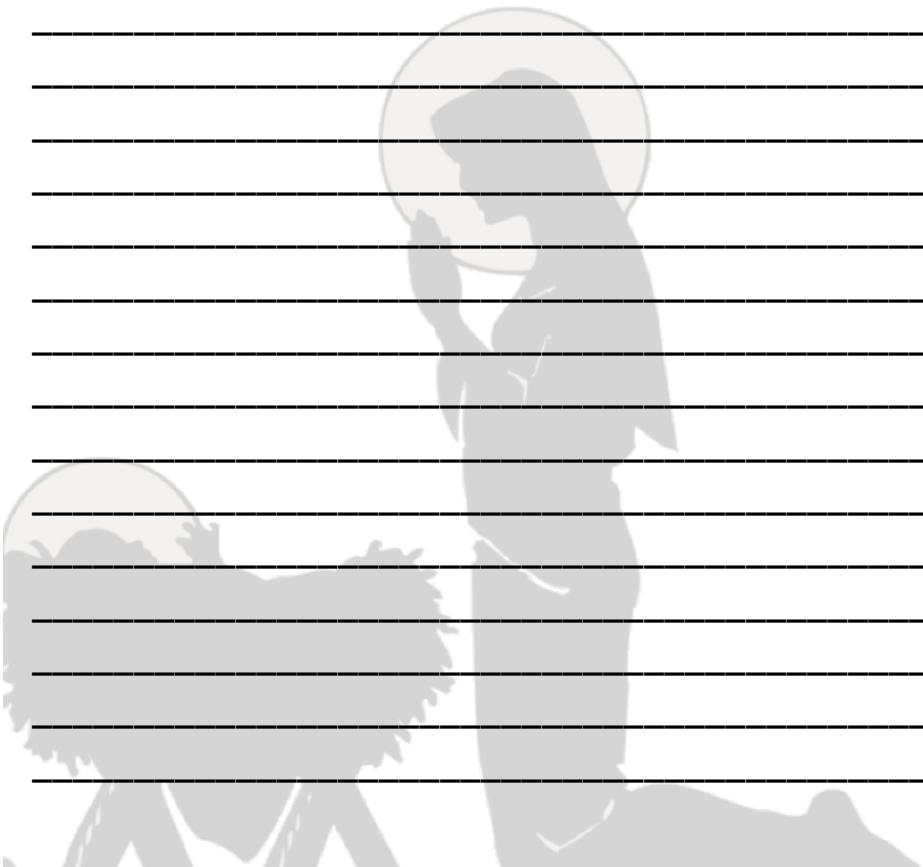
Isaiah 65:17; John 14:26; Psalm 112:6

Never be in a hurry: do everything quietly and in calm spirit.

Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever,
even if your whole world seems upset.

- St. Francis de Sales

Notes:



PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
13

Being Fully *Present*

TODAY'S READING:
Psalm 118:24; Ephesians 5:14; 1 Peter 1:13-14; Matthew 26:40-41

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- Psalm 118:24

Notes:



PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
14

Family Traditions

TODAY'S READING:

Ephesians 5:1; Proverbs 3:9; Luke 21:1-4; Luke 6:38; Matthew 25:36

So be imitators of God, as beloved children.
- Ephesians 5:1

Notes:

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

DAY
15

Decorating Our *Souls*

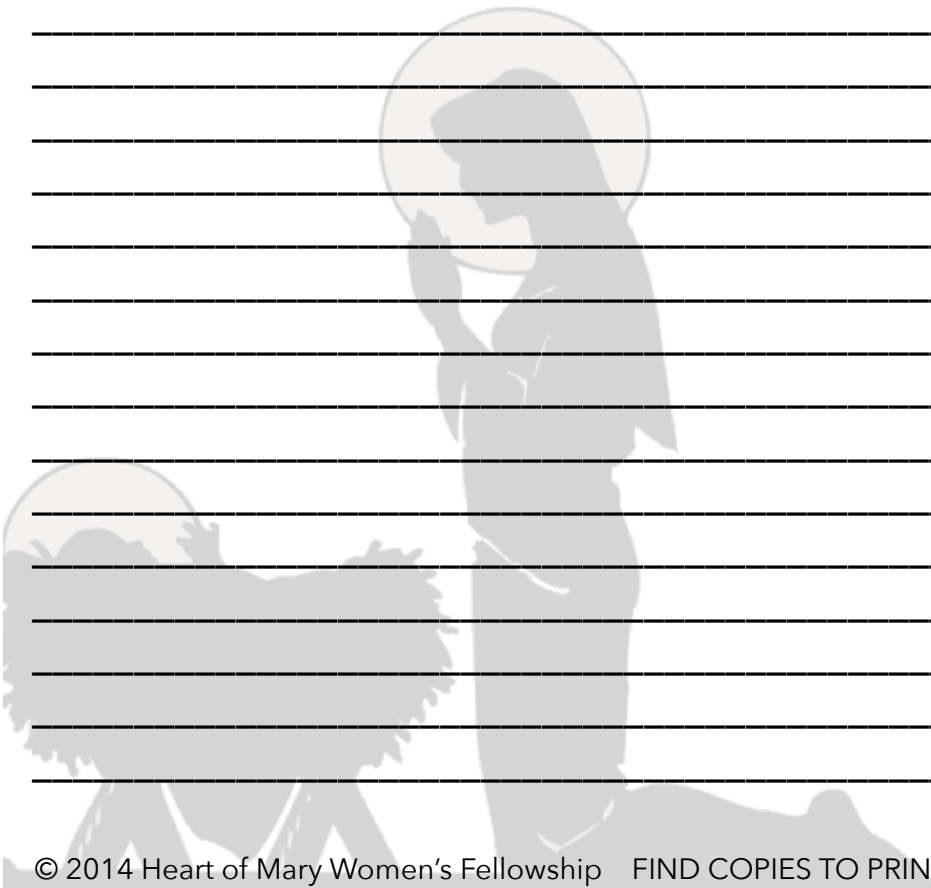
TODAY'S READING:

Luke 10:38-42; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are the temple of God,
and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you?

- 1 Corinthians 3:16

Notes:



PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?

PRAY WITH *Mary*

M: MEDITATE

Rewrite what stands out to you from today's readings or study

A: ASK

Ask God to reveal to you words or key ideas of what He wants you to see

R: REFLECT

Write down your reflections from the readings & prayer time

Y: YOU

How can you apply today's study to your life?
