



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

April 29, 2010

Dear Life Group Friends,

Can you believe it? Two more days and it's the month of May with summer just around the corner. How can it be? Given how fast time flies by, I know you'll make the most of these next few weeks before people start taking trips and going in different directions.

This week's study is the terrific short story about Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus. With Jesus now on His final trek to Jerusalem with crucifixion and glory ahead of Him, Luke changes pace in his account of Jesus' life. Up till now, he's recorded many miracles proving that Jesus is the gracious and all powerful Son of God. But now the focus is more on His teaching than His miracles. Jesus is preparing His disciples for the preaching ministry that they themselves will have following His resurrection and ascension into heaven. It's no wonder, then, that Luke places this little event where he does. He puts Mary in the position of learner and Jesus emphasizing that there's no more important activity in life than sitting at His feet and learning from Him as our Master. To help you appreciate some of the nuances of this story, I've included a message from John MacArthur on the passage. I think you'll find it helpful as you prepare for your discussion.

The coaching tip this week is a continuation of last week's article--"Jesus as the Model Small Group Leader." It's an excellent help no matter what kind of small group you're leading. I hope you enjoy it.

God bless you all for your faithful leadership and hard work on behalf of our church family!

Pastors Gary and Glen