

# Managing Our Household

Make a list of all the things that need to get done in your household for things to go smoothly. For example, making meals, doing laundry, cleaning, taking out the garbage.



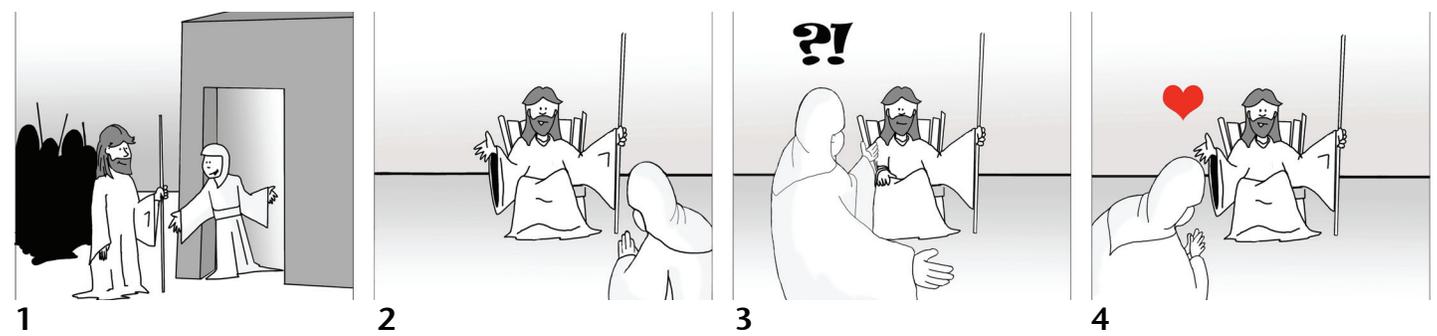
Who does all the chores? Place the person's initials beside each action to specify who usually does that chore. Once you've assigned each chore, add up how many chores each person has. Do the chores seem equally divided? Why or why not?

# Jesus Manages Households

It's hard for us to imagine Jesus doing household chores, because the Gospels really only describe his life when he left home to begin his ministry. We don't have any stories illustrating how much time he spent in the carpenter shop with Joseph or if he had regular chores to do. We can assume though that like any family in Nazareth at that time Jesus would have had chores to do.

Jesus offers us some wisdom in some of his parables and stories about what kind of choices we are called to make.

**Remember Martha and Mary?**



1 As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home.

2 She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching.

3 Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!”

4 The Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:38-42)

Is this passage telling us to give up our household chores and just spend all day at Jesus' feet?

No, it's telling us that we must keep our priorities straight. We must love God, and serve others—managing our households and doing our chores needs to be rooted in God's love for us, and from that love flows our love for others by doing our chores.

# Try It! — Managing Our Household

A "household efficiency" team has just arrived at your home to determine how well your family is managing your household. What do you think they would discover? Use the checklist below to determine how well your household does the following. Be as honest as you can!

- |   |     |    |           |
|---|-----|----|-----------|
| 1. Each week our household makes up a schedule for the week, noting events and who does what household chores.  | Yes | No | Sometimes |
| 2. We have time limits for how much TV we get to watch each day or week.  | Yes | No | Sometimes |
| 3. We follow a budget, and everyone knows how much money has been assigned for rent/mortgage, food, clothes, transportation, entertainment, donations, and so on. | Yes | No | Sometimes |
| 4. We choose to make gifts or do special things for each other or making a donation of time or money in one another's name, rather than buying a gift.            | Yes | No | Sometimes |
| 5. Our weekly schedule includes time for prayer and attending church.   | Yes | No | Sometimes |
| 6. We take time each week to be with friends and family.  | Yes | No | Sometimes |
| 7. We clean our closets and drawers on a regular basis, and give away items to people in need.  | Yes | No | Sometimes |



# Try It! — Your Home's Floor Plan



Draw out a floor plan of your home below. In each room or space write or draw the main activities that take place there.

- ⊙ Color in **Blue** the rooms that you feel are being well used for activities that promote healthy family life.
- ⊙ Color in **Orange** the rooms that you think could be used better for household health.
- ⊙ Color in **Red** the rooms that need a good cleaning. (If there's already a color for that room, color the edges of the room red). Who can work with you to get them cleaned?