[narrator] Today's story is from the book of Luke. It's about two sisters who welcomed Jesus and his followers into their home. As we'll see, things didn't necessarily start smoothly, but then the sisters, Martha and Mary and the followers of Jesus learned from Jesus that we all have different gifts and that God wants to use all of our gifts and all of us.

This is early in the ministry of Jesus. A little time before our story begins, Jesus had sent out his friends two by two to tell people that he was coming and to tell the people in the villages about the kingdom of God. Now Jesus is following where his friends have already been.

In are story are Martha and her younger sister Mary, Jesus, and some of his disciples. Let's see how they all learned that God uses all of us.

[Scene] there is a table with pots and pans or bowls on it. They will get banged on so a wooden spoon or something like that would also be necessary. Mary and Martha are talking.

[Mary] Martha, I'm so excited. Someone just came in from the village down the road and was saying that Jesus is on his way here. Remember when his two followers came a couple of weeks ago, well they stayed here and said that Jesus might stay here when he came.

[Martha] I heard the same thing and we have so much to do to get ready. I was so embarrassed at how messy our place was when his followers stayed with us.

[Mary] What do you mean, I thought it was nice and clean and...

[Martha] There was dust under the table, back in the corner. I didn't see it until they were leaving but I must have missed it somehow. Mary, I was mortified and it can't happen when Jesus comes. I'm off to the market. Please clean this place up while I'm gone.

[Scene] As Martha walks off Jesus and disciples come on.

[Jesus] Hello, my name is Jesus son of Joseph. Some of my friends came through a week or so ago and said that you might be able to let us stay here over night.

[Mary] Rabbi Jesus, of course, you are so welcome to come in and stay. We, my sister Martha and I are excited to meet you. Martha just went to the market, but she should be back very soon.

[Scene] Jesus and Disciples come in and start to sit down.

[Mary] Rabbi Jesus, when your followers were here they said that you talked a lot about something you call the kingdom of God with people. Could you please tell me about that kingdom?

[scene] Martha comes in with basket.

[Mary] Oh, here is my sister Martha. Martha, this is the Rabbi Jesus, he's going to stay with us like we hoped.

[Martha] It's really good to meet you Rabbi Jesus. We were hoping you would stay with us. I've just gotten back from the market. I'm going to start dinner. Please sit down and rest.

[scene] Martha goes to table, takes items out of basket and starts to move things around making more noise as she goes.

[Jesus] Mary, I think that God's kingdom is like, well I can't really describe it directly because it would leave out so much so I tell stories about it.

[Scene] Martha puts down pot and goes over to Jesus.

[Martha] Rabbi, can I talk with you for just a moment please?

[Jesus] Of course Martha.

[Martha] I need some help with the cooking. Would you please tell Mary to get in here and help!!!

[Jesus]Martha, I can see that you are a really great cook and house keeper, you really have some gifts in those areas and I know that we'll have a great meal and a comfortable place to stay tonight. I think that Mary has different gifts, She's asking great questions and I think we'll learn a lot from talking with her. I'd like her to be able to use her gifts with us. Could we do this, could Mary join us, you can join to if you want, and then you can use your gifts by telling us all how to help you make dinner, How would that be?

[Martha] You mean that even you men, and even you would help?

[Jesus] Of course. God uses all of us, we all have different kinds of gifts, and when we work together it makes God happy. In fact, when we use our different gifts, and work together we can see God's kingdom.

[Narrator] So Martha learned that it wasn't all up to her, and that she had gifts that were important. She also learned that her sister Mary had gifts that were different but also important. They both learned that we can share our gifts, and when we do, God uses all of us and our gifts together in making God's kingdom.

[Scene] Martha rushes off, Jesus and Peter plus other disciples come on.