

**STORY**

The Woman of Canaan - Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Lord, Jesus Christ, help us to look to You for all our needs, especially our utmost needs for the forgiveness of sins, faith, Your Word, life, and salvation. Help us through Your Word to humble ourselves so that we plainly and clearly see the need for these gifts and for complete dependence on You at all times. Although You may test our faith severely as You did in the case of the woman in this lesson, grant that the test strengthens our faith. Do not let us weaken or lose our faith over such tests. In Your name we ask this. Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

*Tyre and Sidon* - Two ancient cities that for a time were powerful cities. They were both located on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea about 21 miles apart. \*Find these cities on the map. (see Rupprecht p. 205-206)

*Canaan* - a general term for the geographical region of Palestine. Here, it's used to show the woman was not Jewish. (Regarding Canaan, Young's Concordance of the Bible has a good, though dated summary. Compare also the following: Syro-Phoenician used in Mark 7:27)

*Syro-Phoenician* - a person from the Roman territory that combined Syria with Phoenicia. Phoenicia was a narrow strip of land along the Mediterranean coast that had at one time been a great shipping power (similar boundaries to modern-day Lebanon). Syria was the region east of Phoenicia (similar to today's Syria).

*Demon-possessed* - In Jesus' time the devil and the devil's fallen angels were allowed the power to take limited physical control of people's bodies. (see Rupprecht pp133-134) While it gave the devil the ability to show his anger against Christ, it also gave Christ the opportunity to show His ultimate power over the devil and the demons. It emphasized for the people the great spiritual conflict being played out between the devil and God.

**OUTER AIM**

A Gentile woman persevered in seeking help from Jesus.

**INNER AIM**

Our faith looks expectantly to God for all of our needs.

**BACKGROUND**

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp. 205-210)

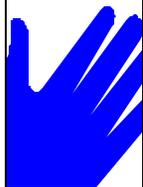
Jesus had recently performed many amazing miracles in Galilee and preached powerful messages in Capernaum. In this story He tries again to take a break from His work by going north from Galilee to a region not as populated by the Jewish people.

Matt. 15:21

- ▶ Jesus went from the region of Gennesaret (Galilee) to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He may not have gone into those cities themselves but to the countryside and villages around them.

v. 22

- ▶ Mark informs us this woman was a Syro-Phoenician, a Greek. "Greek" as used here and other places in the New Testament, often means a non-Jew, a Gentile, a heathen,. She was Greek or Hellenistic in outlook or culture, not in national origin. See vocabulary above.



- ▶ The woman's words, "O, Lord, Son of David," indicates she looked upon Jesus as the promised Jewish Messiah. She believed Him to be her Savior who possessed divine power for forgiveness and healing. She asks that her demon-possessed daughter be healed.
- v. 23
- ▶ Jesus, knowing exactly what He would do and what would happen, seemingly ignores her.
  - ▶ The disciples are perturbed by her and wish to be rid of her somehow.
- v. 24
- ▶ Jesus, knowing that she lived surrounded by unbelievers, seeks to strengthen her faith by testing it.
  - ▶ Jesus lets her know that His first priority was the lost sheep of Israel, meaning the Jewish people of Israel who needed to be gathered through repentance and faith into Jesus' sheepfold (kingdom).
- v. 25
- ▶ She does not let the seeming brush-off, the rejection, disturb her in the least. It made her more persistent and worshipful.
  - ▶ She begs Jesus for help.
- v. 26
- ▶ Yet Jesus' severest test of her faith is shown.
  - ▶ He implies she is a dog and not worthy to receive the full meal on the master's table.
  - ▶ The meal pictures the Gospel that was to be for the "children" (cf. Mt 3:9; Rom. 9; Gal 3:7), not the dogs or the heathen.
  - ▶ The Jews of that time often referred to heathens as dogs.
- v. 27
- ▶ Her reply makes her faith shine all the more brilliantly, because all she asks for is the crumbs from the Gospel table, not the whole meal.
  - ▶ Such was her faith that she knew God's mercy was so great that even a small portion would be sufficient for her needs.
- v. 28
- ▶ Jesus expresses amazement at her faith, hoping that others would look to imitate her great faith and perseverance.
  - ▶ He grants her the "crumbs" for which she asked by healing her daughter.
  - ▶ Mark tells us that she found her daughter lying peacefully on the bed and completely healed.

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

Dear God, you have shown us in this story that even though You may severely test our faith in You, surely You desire us to keep our faith. Help us always to strongly and faithfully trust and hope in You to the end, so that by faith in Your saving work, we may enter Your everlasting home and be with You forever. Amen.

## **PRESENTATION**

Briefly review the previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account). Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

**ACTIVITY TWO** - Help the students memorize the passage and reference. Then have them cut out the boxes and glue them to paper to make a get-well card for someone who is sick. You will need to fold the extra sheet of paper appropriately to make a card.

## **APPLICATIONS**

1. Many times we may and should go to the Lord in times of need and trouble or problems. He tells us to call upon Him in the day of trouble and He will deliver us. We should also see how God may be working on us to show how persistent we can be. Will we be like the woman who did not accept what seemed to be a "no" after her second request? We also need to realize that God does not always answer our prayers in the way we expect Him to.
2. We should realize that we too are "dogs," undeserving of God's mercy because of our many and daily sins. We also are the non-Jews, the Gentiles to whom God also "scattered the crumbs", that is, reached out to after many of the Jews rejected their birthright and Savior. We are made "children" only through Jesus Christ. For Jesus redeemed us, forgives us our sins, and calls us by the Holy Spirit with the Word to believe in Jesus as our Savior. Because of our many sins, even as Christians, each day we need to come many times seeking God's merciful forgiveness and healing and to be reassured of our place as God's children.
3. In this life we should expect the Lord to allow tests of our faith. He permits these trials to strengthen our faith and make heaven appear all the more dear to us. (James 1:2-3,12f; 1 Peter 1:3-7) These trials lead us to long for the assurance of forgiveness and heaven. We know that after the troubles, God will send us times of joy, both now with the peace of forgiveness and in eternal life without tears.
4. Temptation should urge us to have greater reliance upon God instead of relying on ourselves, the world's ideas, or others. (James 1:12ff) Our help is in the Lord.

## **PASSAGES**

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

### Lower

Psalms 50:15 - "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

1 Peter 5:6-7 - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Matthew 11:28 - "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

### Middle any of the above and...

Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Lamentations 3:22-23 - Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

Upper any of the above and...

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 - Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

### **HYMN CHOICES**

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus." (TLH 457 all)

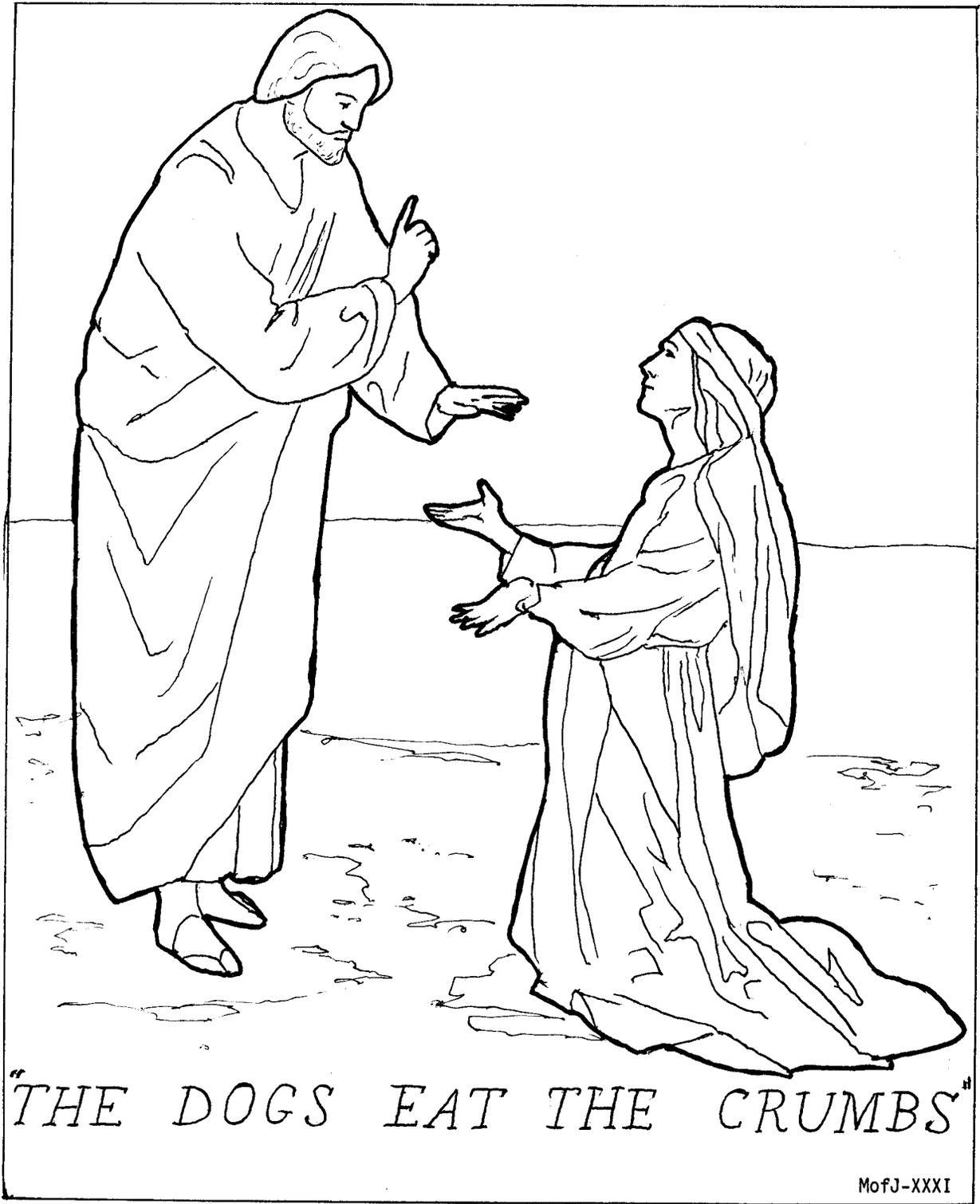
"I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" (TLH 428 all)

"Rise to Arms, With Prayer Employ You" (TLH 444 all)

"Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray" (TLH 446 all)

# The Woman of Canaan

Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30



## The Story

Jesus wanted some time alone. He went to the country of Tyre and Sidon, so He could be alone. The people in this place were Canaanites. Many did not worship the true God. One of these women came to Jesus for help. She had a daughter who was very sick. Even though she was a Gentile, the woman had learned about Jesus. She knew Jesus was the Savior and cried to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me O Lord, Son of David!" Then she asked Jesus to make her daughter well.

At first, Jesus did not answer the woman. He was testing her faith. The disciples wanted to send

her away, but the woman kept praying for Jesus to help her.

Then Jesus told the Gentile woman that He was sent first to help the lost sheep of Israel. The woman worshiped Jesus and said, "True, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the masters' table." She was certain Jesus would answer her prayer.

Jesus saw the great faith of the Gentile woman. He said, "O, woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you ask." When the woman returned home, she found her daughter had been healed in that same hour!

### Activity One - Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks.

help	prayer	Savior	faith	Jesus
------	--------	--------	-------	-------

1. The woman knew Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She prayed to Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ heal her daughter.
3. Jesus said she had great \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus answered her \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ hears my prayers too.

## Prayer

We know You are our Savior and You hear our prayers. Thank You for all our blessings. Amen

**Activity Two** - Cut out the boxes and glue them to a folded paper to make a get-well card for someone who is sick. Try to memorize the passage from Psalms as you are coloring and cutting.



**Call upon Me in  
the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you,  
and you shall  
glorify Me.  
Psalm 50:15**

**May Jesus  
help you to  
get well**

# The Woman of Canaan

Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30



## The Story

Jesus went to the country of Tyre and Sidon, so He could be alone. The people in this place were Canaanites. Many did not worship the true God. One of these women came to Jesus for help. She had a daughter who was very sick. Even though she was a Gentile, she had learned about Jesus. She knew Jesus was the Savior and cried to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me O Lord, Son of David!" Then she asked Jesus to make her daughter well.

At first Jesus did not answer the woman. He wanted to test her faith. The disciples wanted to

send her away. The woman kept praying for Jesus to help her.

Then Jesus told the Gentile woman that He was sent first to help the lost sheep of Israel. The woman worshiped Jesus and said, "True, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the masters' table." She was certain Jesus would answer her prayer.

Jesus saw the great faith of the Gentile woman. He said, "O, woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you ask." When the woman returned home she found her daughter had been healed in that same hour.

### A Gentile woman persevered in seeking help from Jesus.

**Review** - Use the picture on page 1 for some of numbers below.

1. Color the woman who showed great faith.
2. How did the woman show her faith in Jesus?
3. How do we get strong faith?
4. Color Jesus.
5. How did Jesus answer the woman's prayer?
6. How does Jesus help us?

## Activity One - Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks.

mercy      well      Jesus      Gentiles      faith      praying      Savior

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ woman came to Jesus for help.
2. She knew Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The woman prayed to Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ did not help the woman right away.
5. She kept on \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.
6. Jesus said the woman had great \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Jesus made the daughter \_\_\_\_\_.

## Hymn - TLH 457 v. 1, 2

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a Friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness —  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

**Our faith looks expectantly to God for all of our needs.**

**Passages** - Use the words from these Bible passages to help you make a get-well card for someone who is sick.

**Psalm 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you,  
and you shall glorify Me.**

**Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.**

**1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,  
that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him for He  
cares for you.**

## **Prayer**

Dear God,

You have shown us in this story that even though You may severely test our faith in You, surely You desire us to keep our faith. Help us always to strongly and faithfully trust and hope in You to the end, so that by faith in Your Son, Jesus', saving work, we may enter Your everlasting home and be with You forever. Amen.

# The Woman of Canaan

Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

What is prayer?

Why do people pray?

## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We pray You will send the Holy Spirit to us, so we will gladly hear and study Your Word. Help us as we learn to come to You in prayer and trust in You for everything. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## The Story - Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. {22} And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

(Mark 7:26) The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

{23} But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

{24} But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." {25} Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

{26} But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

{27} And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

{28} Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

---

## Outer Aim

**A Gentile woman persevered in seeking help from Jesus.**

---



## What the Story Tells Us - Match by writing the correct letter.

1. \_\_\_\_ Jesus traveled to
  2. \_\_\_\_ A Gentile woman
  3. \_\_\_\_ Her daughter was
  4. \_\_\_\_ The Gentile woman showed
  5. \_\_\_\_ At first Jesus
  6. \_\_\_\_ At first Jesus said
  7. \_\_\_\_ The woman continued
  8. \_\_\_\_ Jesus said the woman
  9. \_\_\_\_ Then Jesus
  10. \_\_\_\_ Jesus showed his power
- A. to pray even though Jesus didn't help.
  - B. possessed by a devil.
  - C. the region of Tyre and Sidon.
  - D. came to Jesus for help.
  - E. her faith in Jesus.
  - F. He came to help only Israel.
  - G. did not answer the woman.
  - H. healed the daughter.
  - I. over the devil and evil spirits.
  - J. had great faith.

---

## Inner Aim

**Our faith looks expectantly to God for all of our needs.**

---

## What God Tells Us - Fill in the blanks from the Word List.

1. We should \_\_\_\_\_ for help in all our needs.
2. God hears \_\_\_\_\_ our prayers.
3. Sometimes God does not \_\_\_\_\_ our prayers right away.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ wants us to keep on praying.
5. We need to ask God for \_\_\_\_\_ every day
6. Sometimes God sends us trials to strengthen our \_\_\_\_\_.
7. We know that God's best answer to our prayers is \_\_\_\_\_ life in faith.

### Word List

answer  
forgiveness  
eternal  
pray  
God  
all  
faith

## Passages

Psalm 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you,  
and you shall glorify Me."

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will  
give you rest.

Lamentations 3:22-23 Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,  
Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning;  
Great is Your faithfulness.

## Hymn - Hymn 457 v. 1, 2

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a Friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness —  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

**Your Turn** - Use ideas from the story, the Bible passages and hymn verses to write a prayer asking the Lord for help.

## Prayer

Dear God,

You have shown us in this story that even through You may severely test our faith in You, surely You desire us to keep our faith. Help us always to trust and hope in You to the end, that by faith in Your saving work, we may enter Your everlasting home and be with You forever. Amen.

# The Woman of Canaan

Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

What are some reasons people pray?

When are some times we pray?

## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven. We pray You will send the Holy Spirit to us, so we will gladly hear and study Your Word. Help us as we learn to come to You in prayer and trust in You for everything. In Jesus name. Amen.



## The Story

(Matthew 15:21-28) Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. {22} And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

(Mark 7:26) The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

{23} But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

{24} But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

{25} Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

{26} But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

{27} And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

{28} Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

## Recalling Details

1. Near what cities did this story take place?
2. Who came to help?
3. What words show she believed in Jesus as her Savior?
4. What two things did she pray for?



5. At first what did Jesus do?
6. What did Jesus tell her?
7. How did the Greek woman show her faith?
8. What did Jesus say about the Gentile woman?
9. How did Jesus help the woman?
10. What power did Jesus show by healing the demon-possessed girl?

---

### **Outer Aim**

**A Gentile woman persevered in seeking help from Jesus.**

---

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What did the Gentile woman pray for?
2. When should we go to Jesus in prayer?
3. From our story, what do we learn to do if God does not answer our prayers?
4. How are we like the Gentile woman?
5. How did Jesus test the woman's faith?
6. How did the woman show her strong faith?
7. How do we show our faith?
8. In what ways does God answer prayers?

---

### **Inner Aim**

**Our faith looks expectantly to God for all of our needs.**

---

### **Passages**

**Matthew 11:28-30** Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

*What is the rest Jesus promises to give us?*

**1 Peter 5:6-7** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you.

*What do these Bible verses tell us to pray about?*

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13** Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall, no temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

*Because God is faithful, what will He do?*

### **Hymn and Prayer**

Read Hymn 446 vs. 1, 5, and 6. Use the hymn verses to write a closing prayer for today's lesson. Include the ideas from both the **OUTER** and **INNER AIMS**.