

Connection

Share a special memory you have from a woman in your life (mom, grandmother, mentor, friend).

Cheer and Challenge

How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.

Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

Faith of a Canaanite Woman

Read Matthew 15:21-28

1. Summarize the back drop of this story - who are the main characters, why are they there, and what is the main problem that needs an answer?
2. What did the woman acknowledge about Jesus by calling Him "Son of David" in verse 22?
3. How would you describe the woman's request to Jesus? What does it say about her desperation and her understanding of who Jesus is?
4. Although the disciples wanted to send her away, the woman was not deterred from what she wanted from Jesus. Have you ever come to Jesus for a need with this kind of determination? What did you discover about Jesus and yourself?

5. Look at Matthew 15:26-27. The Canaanite woman agreed with Jesus' response to her request. What does that say about her faith in what Jesus could do for her?
6. What lessons from the Canaanite woman's faith in Jesus can help your faith to grow?

Believe in the nearness of Jesus. Rely on His power and grace.

What is stopping you from having faith like this woman?

Commitment

As you reflect on today's study, what step can you take to come to Jesus with faith like the Canaanite woman?

Write a statement committing yourself to respond:

"I will _____."



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, look for opportunities to share your faith story with someone who needs to hear how Jesus is near, how He gives to those who are desperate, and that He loves them.

Continue Digging Deeper

1. The Canaanite woman in Matthew 15 was very persistent in asking God for help. Learning from her example, how can you persevere in prayer?

- Using the acronym for “help” listed below, read the scripture and then write a prayer asking God for help in those areas.

H - Hear me Lord (Psalm 86:1)

E - Establish my steps (Psalm 119-138)

L - Let your compassion be known (Psalm 79:8)

P - Protect (Psalm 16:1)

- Listen to the song “Lord I Need You” performed by Phil Wickham feat. Matt Maher (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EyLaNyzBBU>)

Resource:

How to pray for help cited from, “4 Psalms to Pray When You Need God’s Help” by Jennifer Rothschild. (<https://www.jenniferrothschild.com/psalms-to-pray-when-need-gods-help/>)

2. We are encouraged in James 4:8 to draw near to God. Drawing near to God is an invitation to approach Him.

Read & Research - Read James 4:8 and look up in a Bible commentary what it means to “draw near to God”. Read Hebrews 4:16 and list the benefits of approaching God.

Reflect - Think about what prevents you from drawing near to God or what draws you away or distracts you from spending time with Him. Spend a few moments in prayer.

Respond - How can you draw near to God (approach Him) this week?

Ways to draw near to God: Read God’s word, confess your sins, give thanks, memorize scripture, serve someone, marvel at God’s creation, spend time in prayer and worship, receive the gift of salvation, be a part of a church community, etc. If you would like to learn more about the gift of salvation, email groups@visitccc.com.

Optional Resource:

“Draw Near” by Dane C. Ortland ~ <https://www.crossway.org/articles/draw-near/>

3. The Canaanite women in Matthew 15 was known for her great faith. Read the passages below and write down what God is asking us to be faithful in and think of some ways you can practically be faithful in those areas.

- I Thessalonians 5:16-18, Romans 12:12
- Hebrews 10:25
- I Peter 4:10-11
- James 1:12
- Proverbs 12:22

4. Elisabeth Elliot said,

“Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.”

- What resources do you use or who do you turn to when you have questions or need wisdom?
- What question(s) do you have right now concerning your belief in God or is there something that you still wonder about when it comes to the Bible? Search the Bible, use an online resource like Blue Letter Bible or Got Questions and see what you can find. If you are in a group ask someone to help guide you to the truth or email us at groups@visitccc.com.
- What does the Bible say about seeking? Read these verses and write down what you find. Psalm 9:10, Psalm 40:16, Matthew 6:33, Proverbs 8:17, Hebrews 11:6.