

Bible Lesson

## 20. A Mother Begs and Believes

Matthew 15; Mark 7



Jesus said, "You have great faith. What you asked will be done." The girl was healed at that moment.

Matthew 15:28

## **A Mother Begs and Believes**

Jesus left the land of the Jews. He visited the land of the Gentiles. A Gentile mother was sad. She was sad and scared. Her little girl had an evil spirit inside her.

But Jesus had come to her town! The mother ran to him. She fell at the feet of Jesus.

“Lord, help me,” she begged. “My daughter has an evil spirit in her. She is suffering. Please, please take it out of her.”

At first, Jesus did not say a thing. “Send her away,” the disciples said. “She keeps crying out to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I was sent to save the lost Jews first.” This mother was not a Jew.

But she kept begging Jesus. “Lord, help me,” she said. Jesus smiled. He saw how much she believed in him.

Jesus said, “You have great faith. Go on your way. What you asked has been done.”

At that moment, the girl was healed!

The mother went home. The child was laying in bed, happy and healed.

## Questions

1. What miracle did Jesus perform that showed his kindness?
2. What did the mother do that showed her faith in Jesus?
3. Even when people tried to stop her, how many times did she ask Jesus for help?
4. Faith brings miracles. What miracle do you need to keep begging Jesus to do for you?

## Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

You are so kind. You came for everyone. Thank you for this mother's great faith. Please give me great faith.

Please, Lord, I need a miracle. I need you to:

\_\_\_\_\_.

Amen

"She keeps crying out," the disciples said. Keep crying out to Jesus for an answer to your prayer. Jesus told us to keep on asking. Put a check mark in the box for each time you ask.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

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Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

### **Before you read:**

#### **Activate Prior Knowledge**

- a) Share a time when God answered a prayer for you. How many times did you ask?
- b) Did you ever beg your parents to do something for you, and they did it just because you begged?
- c) Can a person get God to listen by begging?

### **After you read:**

#### **Sad to Happy**

The situation went from Sad-and-Scared to Beg-and-Believe to Happy-and-Healed. Find and circle those words in the story. Write them on a board. Draw big arrows from one set of words to the next. Ask why the mother was sad and scared; why she begged (even after the disciples tried to dissuade her); what words show that she believed; and how the girl was healed. Say a prayer using those words for your own sad or scary situations. Beg and believe.

#### **What Moves the Hand of God?**

The mother who begged Jesus was a Gentile, which means she would have been despised by the Jews. And she was a woman – even lower on the social scale. And yet she moved the hand of God. Get ten lunch bags. On the bottom of each bag, write NO. Write a question like this one on a piece of paper and place it inside each bag: Did the mother have a fantastic job? Write similar questions asking about her: money, title, power, importance, popularity, fame, education, power as a man, and respect. Place these bags on ten steps. On the top step, place a fancy box. In it write on a slip of paper: Did she have great faith, love, and persistence? On the bottom of the box, write, “YES. What you asked will be done.” After the kids go up each step discovering what does not move the hand of God, let them stomp on the empty bags leading up to the “throne of grace at the top.” Open the box. Talk about how a child can also have great faith.

## Persistence in Prayer

Find clues in the story about the mother's persistence with Jesus. Color code the lines in the story to match the lines under the days of the week. On the top blank, write in a prayer request. Beneath that, add a check box for each time you pray that prayer. On the bottom spaces, record a big thank you when God answers.

| Sunday                 | Monday                         | Tuesday                      | Wednes-<br>day                       | Thursday                      | Friday                      | Saturday                   |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| The mother ran to him. | She fell at the feet of Jesus. | "Lord, help me," she begged. | "Please, please take it out of her." | "She keeps crying out to us." | But she kept begging Jesus. | "Lord, help me," she said. |
| Run to Jesus.          | Fall at his feet.              | Beg him to help.             | Say please.                          | Keep crying out.              | Keep begging.               | Ask the Lord to help you.  |
|                        |                                |                              |                                      |                               |                             |                            |
|                        |                                |                              |                                      |                               |                             |                            |
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## Great Faith

Jesus said, "You have great faith. What you asked will be done." What is it that moves the hand of God? Our faith in him. Decorate, color, cut out, and display the poster below. Ask daily for great faith.

What is faith?

Firmly

Jesus said, "You have great faith.  
What you asked will be done."  
Matthew 15:28

Asking

In

the

holy Name of Jesus

