



Spring 2023 | 05.14.23

To catch up on the full Sunday messages from this series, check out our YouTube channel.

[\[YouTube Channel\]](#)

INTRO & ICE BREAKER

Introduce yourself and answer this: What is one quality you admire about your mother or a mother-figure in your life?

RECAP & DISCUSSION

In this week's message, Pastor Chris talked about how Jesus used an interaction with a mother to teach his disciples about his heart for all people. In difficult situations, you may not fully understand what Jesus is trying to accomplish, but Jesus' mission is bigger than just the situation you're personally experiencing. The faith of the woman in this story shows that while it's easy to be frustrated by the way Jesus chooses to resolve a difficult situation, coming into Jesus' presence with humility (even when you don't understand) can lead to the miracle you need.

Discussion: Let's spend a few moments sharing what stood out to us from the message on Sunday. What was new or unexpected? What impacted you the most? What did you talk about after service?

Pastor Chris began his message by reminding us that part of Jesus' mission on earth was to teach his disciples what to do when life gets difficult, but even his disciples did not always understand the methods he used to teach his lessons. Like the disciples, you may find Jesus' teachings, mission, and methods confusing at times, and you might get offended by the parts you don't understand. That frustration can get in the way of what Jesus wants to teach you.

Discussion:

- Are there parts of Jesus' life or teachings that you don't fully understand? *(Life Group Leaders, if something comes up that you don't know how to address, please encourage them and direct them to reaching out Pastor Katie or one of the pastoral staff! A great way to say this is, "That's such a great question," or "I've wondered about that too. I don't know the answer to that, but let's ask Pastor Katie about that one.")*

- Why is it easy to get frustrated when you don't understand what Jesus is trying to teach you through the difficulties you face?

Have someone read Matthew 15:21-28.

In this passage, a Canaanite mother comes to Jesus looking for him to heal her daughter, but he doesn't respond in the way his disciples would like. In those days, Jewish people did not interact with Gentiles, people of other ethnicities, and they believed that the Messiah (Jesus) was only going to save them. Jesus explains this belief to the woman using an analogy that seems offensive, but he is really setting the woman up to test her faith and to teach his disciples about his real priorities.

Jesus' mission is bigger than the Jewish people, and he wants his disciples to learn that all people are welcome to come to Jesus to find healing. The mother knows that she doesn't need to fully understand Jesus' mission to come to Jesus, so she approaches Jesus with faith and humility and finds healing for her daughter.

Discussion:

- What is your first reaction to the way Jesus responds to this woman?
- Has Jesus ever responded to one of your prayers in a way that didn't make sense? How did you react? How did the situation turn out?
- What questions, misunderstandings, or frustrations keep you from coming to Jesus with faith and humility?

Pastor Chris ends his message by stating that you are included in Jesus' mission. Everyone is welcome to come and find healing in Jesus' presence, and we want to build a church where you, no matter who you are, will come to understand that God will never stop loving you. Jesus wants everyone to know about him, and you can demonstrate his love by being someone who will never stop loving the people in your life (your spouse, children, parents, or friends).

Discussion:

- What can you do this week to help other people (friends, family, strangers, etc.) feel included in Jesus' mission?
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Pastor Chris encourages moms to prioritize and fight for time in the presence of Jesus. But this isn't just for moms - this is for all of us. The world needs people who have been in the presence of Jesus. The people in your life need you to be someone who spends time in the presence of Jesus.

Discussion:

- How can you prioritize getting yourself in the presence of Jesus this week? (*Reading your Bible, praying for and with your family, prioritizing godly community*)
- What is a situation that you are currently facing that you need to put in front of Jesus this week? How can we as a Life Group pray for that with you this week?

PRAY

Close out your time together with prayer. Who can pray for us tonight? (Remember, we want everyone to pray out loud during our season!) Are there any prayer requests or praise/celebrations?

ANNOUNCE

Coming up next week (5/21)!!

- Our new series, My Grown Up Bible starts next week!
 - So many of us keep trying to tackle our grown-up problems from what we learned in our cartoon children's bible growing up. Next Sunday, we are starting a new series of talks that will help each of us develop a grown-up perspective of the Bible. The series is called "My Grown-Up Bible".
- Graduation Prayer Moment:
 - If you know someone who is graduating from High School or College, please email Pastor Jimmy by Wednesday – JimmyBanks@ourcity.church
- YTH NIGHT at 6:30-8pm!
 - Calling all Middle School and High School youth!! Our second YTH NIGHT is here, and you don't want to miss it! Invite a friend because we'll have free tacos, new pre-service games, and an incredible worship experience! Reach out to Pastor Jimmy or Pastor Kellen with any questions!

We'll see you next week!

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