

FAMILY PRAYER

WEEK BY WEEK



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A
16 August 2020

"Woman, your faith is great."

Something to Think About

In today's story, Jesus talks to a woman from a different country and, despite their differences, he eventually helps her because of her faith. Who, in your life, would you consider to be a foreigner or a stranger? Maybe a person you haven't met yet or a person you have judged to be 'different'.

The Story

The woman in this week's story from Matthew's gospel is a stranger and a foreigner and the last person one would expect to seek out Jesus. She displays great faith, more faith, in fact, than the disciples ever show! It is her faith that saves her and heals her daughter.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:23-28

A Canaanite woman kept following Jesus and shouting, so his disciples came up and asked him to send her away. Jesus said, "I was sent only to the people of Israel! They are like a flock of lost sheep."

The woman came closer. Then she kneeled down and begged, "Lord, please help me!"

Jesus replied, "It isn't right to take food away from children and feed it to dogs."

"Lord, that's true," the woman said, "but even dogs get the crumbs that fall from their owner's table."

Jesus answered, "Dear woman, you really do have a lot of faith, and you will be given what you want."

At that moment her daughter was healed.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

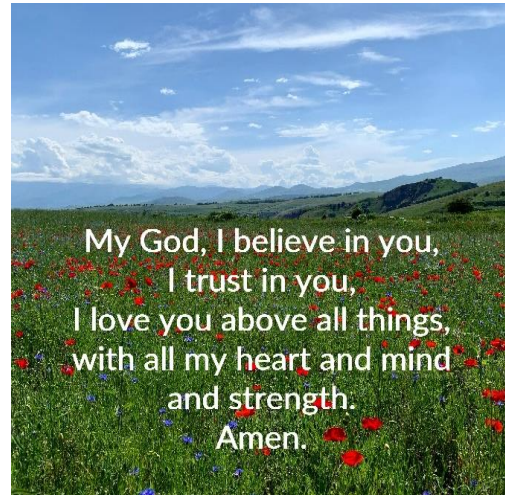
[Faith Through The Eyes of a Child](#)



THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Prayer

Say this prayer together at bedtime this week.



Family Discussion

Talk together about what you found surprising about what Jesus does and says in today's story. Has someone ever ignored you as Jesus did to the woman when she called him the first time? Talk about how you felt. Why didn't the woman give up? Why did she continue calling Jesus to help her daughter? Talk about how Jesus is always ready to answer the prayers of anyone who has strong faith in God.

Family Activity

You will need paper cut in the shape of a heart, pens and a small container. Gather the family together and talk about the faith the Canaanite woman had in Jesus answering her prayer. When we pray, we pray with our heart and with faith. Each person takes a heart and writes or draws their prayer to God and places it in the basket.



Images from Unsplash.com and Pixabay.com. Used under licence/with permission.

Contemporary English Version of Scripture extracts provided under licence from ICEL to Liturgy Brisbane.

JESUS HELPS EVERYONE!

A WOMAN FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY ASKED JESUS TO HELP HER DAUGHTER WHO WAS SICK.

**SHE ASKED,
AND ASKED AGAIN.
SHE DID NOT GIVE UP.**

**JESUS SAW HER FAITH
AND HEALED HER DAUGHTER.**



WHAT DO YOU ASK JESUS FOR?