

JESUS & THE MOTHER WHO WOULDN'T GIVE UP

MARK 7

MAIN TAKEAWAY

The Christian life is lived by and through faith. God is the one who works, but He chooses to work through humans living by faith. There is no safer place to put your faith than in God.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Everyone has faith in something. What are some examples of ways people have “faith” apart from God? Why is faith most safe and secure in God?

What is faith (Hebrews 11:1)? Why must faith have belief and action?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 7:24-30

Faith does things (James 2:17). How would you describe the woman’s attitude as she approached Jesus? In what way does faith get stronger the more you use it?

Faith can make the difference between something happening and not happening. The woman realized that even just some of Jesus’ power was enough. How does this illustrate our need to seek God’s will and to pray with persistence?

This woman was a model of faith (Matthew 15:28). Pastor Greg described this woman as having “hysterical faith.” How does the woman’s response reveal the relationship between humility and faith (v.28)? How have you seen similar examples of faith?

***There is a spiritual battle for our children.* Pastor Greg noted the influence of faith this woman had on her daughter's life. What are some ways parents today can influence their kids to understand the true meaning of faith (Ephesians 6:4)? How would you characterize the "faith" your parents demonstrated to you when you were growing up? How would you characterize the "faith" you're now demonstrating to others?**

Pastor Greg explained that Jesus was developing and displaying the woman's faith. In what way does this show that "God's delays are not necessarily His denials"?

Jesus went out of His way to minister to the woman. How does this story illustrate the ways we should reach unexpected people in unexpected places with an unexpected message?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Pastor Greg made the following points of application: 1) Faith is often found in the most unusual places. 2) No matter what, bring your problems to Jesus. 3) When you pray, seek to find the will of God and pray with persistence. Which truths stand out as something you need to apply in your own life? Explain.

What could you learn from this woman about how to respond to challenges (Luke 11:9-10)? When it comes to prayer, when are you tempted to give up? Why?

What is a situation in your life where you need to display greater faith? How can this group pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for His grace and strength. Ask for His help to understand and demonstrate true faith that works itself out in word and action, a living display of God's glory in your life.