

**LIFE OF CHRIST**  
from the gospel of  
**Mark**

**LESSON 24**

**A GENTILE  
WOMAN'S FAITH**

**MARK 7:1-30**

# Life of Christ

## A Gentile Woman's Faith

## Mark 7:1-30

### Younger Verse

Faith means being sure of what we hope for.

Hebrews 11:1

### Older Verse

Faith means being sure of what we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.

Hebrews 11:1

### Lesson Goals

**Learn that God looks at what is in our heart**  
**Understand that Jesus came to save all people**  
**Recognize the faith of the Gentile woman**

### Opener

*Have you ever decided you didn't want an old toy any more? When you saw your brother or sister playing with it, did that make you want it back? In today's lesson, a woman received a wonderful gift that others had rejected.*

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

The last few weeks have been so much fun. We have talked about Jesus feeding 5,000 people with a small amount of food. And last week we learned that Jesus walked on water to get to His disciples!

After those amazing miracles, though, the religious leaders found a way to criticize Jesus. The Jews, God's chosen people, had many rules about how to do things. One of these rules was about how to clean your hands before eating. Evidently, Jesus' disciples had not cleaned their hands the right way. When the leaders saw this, they told Jesus this wasn't right.

But Jesus knew what was in the hearts of these men. He knew that they were clean on the outside, but their hearts were dirty with sin. So Jesus quoted a Scripture from Isaiah that says that some people praise God with their mouths, but their hearts are not right with God. He was talking about the religious leaders when He said this.

Jesus continued explaining to His disciples that what is on the inside of a person (their heart) is more important than what is on the outside. God is more concerned about a person being right with Him than about how the person washes their hands. The Jews had created so many rules that it was too hard for the people to follow them all! (*Teachers: Explain the difference in God's laws in the Bible and all the extra rules the Jewish leaders had made.*)

After that, Jesus left that place and went to a place called Tyre. Many of the people there did not follow God's laws. The religious leaders did not go to this area. The Jews did not like to be around people who were not Jews—they were called **Gentiles**. But Jesus went

there. He needed to get away from the crowds for a while.

When Jesus got to the place, He went inside a house. A woman from that area found out that Jesus was there. She ran to the house and fell at Jesus' feet. She had a daughter that had an evil spirit inside of her. Do you remember the man that had evil spirits in him? They made the man hurt himself and do strange things. The mother wanted her child to be free from this evil spirit.

Jesus responded to the mother, "First, let the children eat all they want, for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." The woman boldly answered Jesus, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." When Jesus heard her response, He knew that she believed in Him and who He was.

Jesus replied to her, "Because of your answer, you may go; the evil spirit has left your daughter." The woman went home and found her daughter lying in bed, and the evil spirit was gone.

Jesus started His ministry with the Jewish people. He was born into a Jewish family, and He grew up in a Jewish town. But many of the Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. So Jesus also went to the Gentiles—the non-Jewish people. He wanted them to know that He came to earth for them, too.

Jesus died and came back to life to forgive all people's sins. It is up to you to ask Him into your heart. Jesus is the only one who can remove all the bad things we have done. If you ask Him to, He will, but you have to ask Him. If you are ready to let Jesus into your heart, talk with me today.

#### Review Questions

1. Why did the Jewish leaders criticize Jesus? (His disciples did not wash their hands the right way according to the Jewish laws.)
2. What did Jesus say was more important—the outside or inside of a person? (the inside—the heart)
3. What did the Gentile woman ask Jesus to do for her? (to heal her daughter from the evil spirit)
4. Why did Jesus help the Gentile woman? (because of her faith)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God that Jesus came for all people—even us. Pray that we will reach out to those who are different than us and help them to know God loves them.

#### Life Application

The woman believed that Jesus could heal her daughter the moment she went to see Him. She had so much faith in Him that she did not bring her daughter with her. Even though we cannot see Jesus, we can have faith that Jesus can do amazing things in and through our lives.

Planning for Lesson 25  
Jesus Heals a Deaf Man  
Mark 7:31-37

## Preschool Lesson for A Gentile Woman's Faith

The last few weeks have been so much fun. We have talked about Jesus feeding 5,000 people with a small amount of food. And last week we learned that Jesus walked on water to get to His disciples!

After all of that, Jesus left that place and went to a place called Tyre. Many of the people there did not follow God's laws. The religious leaders did not go to this area. The Jews did not like to be around people who were not Jews—they were called **Gentiles**. But Jesus went there. He needed to get away from the crowds for a while.

When Jesus got to the place, He went inside a house. A woman from that area found out that Jesus was there. She ran to the house and fell at Jesus' feet. She had a daughter that had an evil spirit inside of her. Do you remember the man that had evil spirits in him? They made the man hurt himself and do strange things. The mother wanted her child to be free from this evil spirit.

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Jesus started His ministry with the Jewish people. He was born into a Jewish family, and He grew up in a Jewish town. But many of the Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. So Jesus also went to the Gentiles—the non-Jewish people. He wanted them to know that He came to earth for them, too.

Thank God that He loves all people. Pray for those who do not know Him. Ask Him to help us to love everyone, too.

Sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

## **Hands-on Activities for The Gentile Woman's Faith**

Before you tell the story, give each child a crumb of a cracker or bread. Ask them if they would be happy if that is all they received for snack.

Have the kids think of things that are real versus things that are pretend. Share how the Pharisees were pretending to love God. Talk about what it means to REALLY love God.

Before class, find a pretty cup or mug and a plain white or dull cup or mug. Coat the pretty cup on the inside with dirt and make sure the plain cup is clean. Now, show the two cups to the class. Explain that the pretty cup looks so nice on the outside. Now reveal the inside—all dirty. Show the plain cup and how it is clean on the inside. Explain that the Pharisees looked so nice on the outside, but inside, their hearts were dirty with sin. Share how Jesus wants us to be clean on the inside—in our hearts.

Bring a little bottle of disappearing ink (most party stores carry it) and a handkerchief or paper towel. Drop several drops of ink on the towel and share how we are all dirty with sin. Now turn the towel toward you so that the kids cannot see the ink slowly disappearing. Share how Jesus made a way to clean up all our dirty sins. Slowly explain how Jesus made a way for us to go to Heaven. Now reveal the clean towel with no ink! Share how Jesus removes all the sin from our lives when we ask Him to forgive us. Let the kids see the ink and demonstrate it so that they can see it slowly disappearing. Help them see what it means to have a clean heart.

Bring soap and water to class (or use hand sanitizer without water, if easier). Let everyone wash their hands. After they are finished, insist that they wash their hands again. Then, do it again. Obviously, the kids will begin to see that they do not need to wash their hands AGAIN. Share how this relates to the lesson today.

**Faith means  
being sure of  
what we  
hope for.  
Hebrews 11:1**



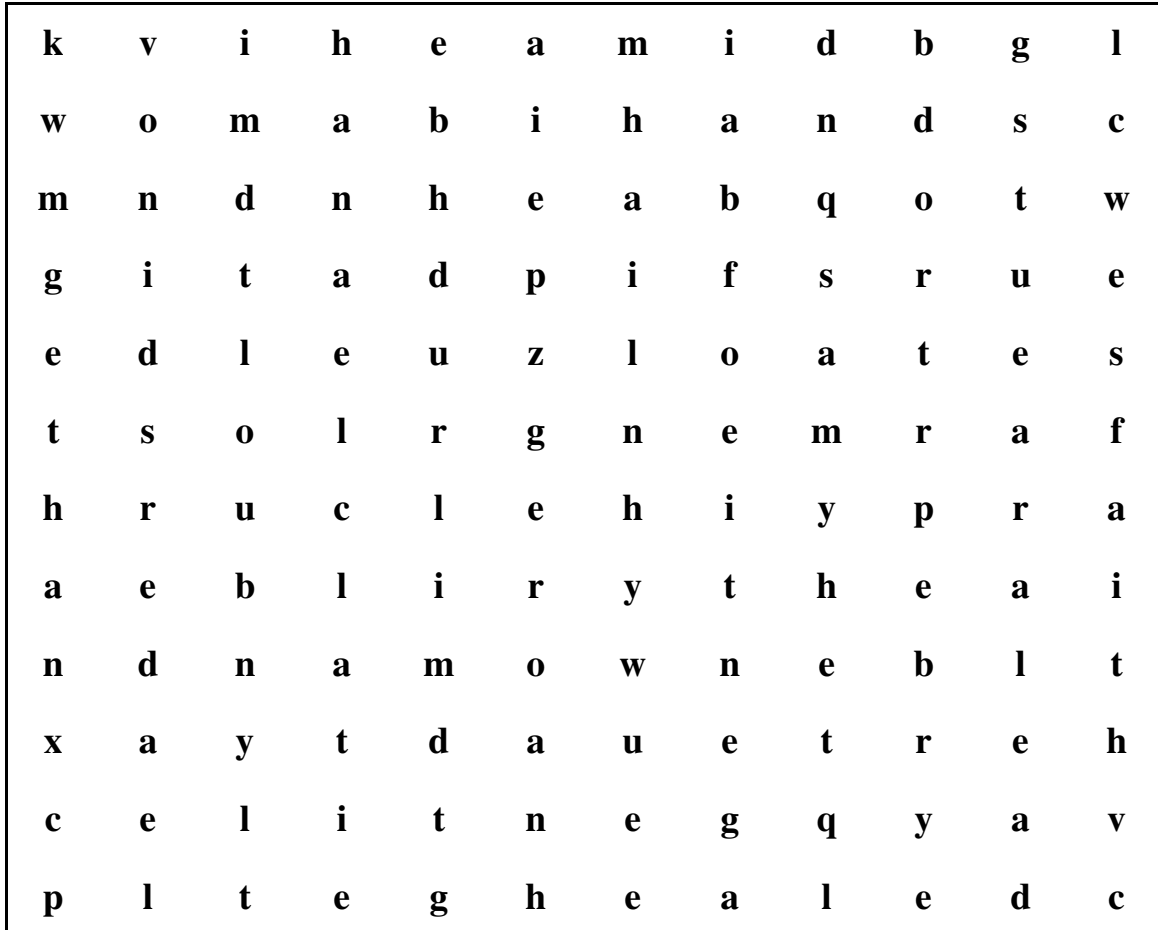
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what we hope for. And  
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# Word Search

## A Gentile Woman's Faith

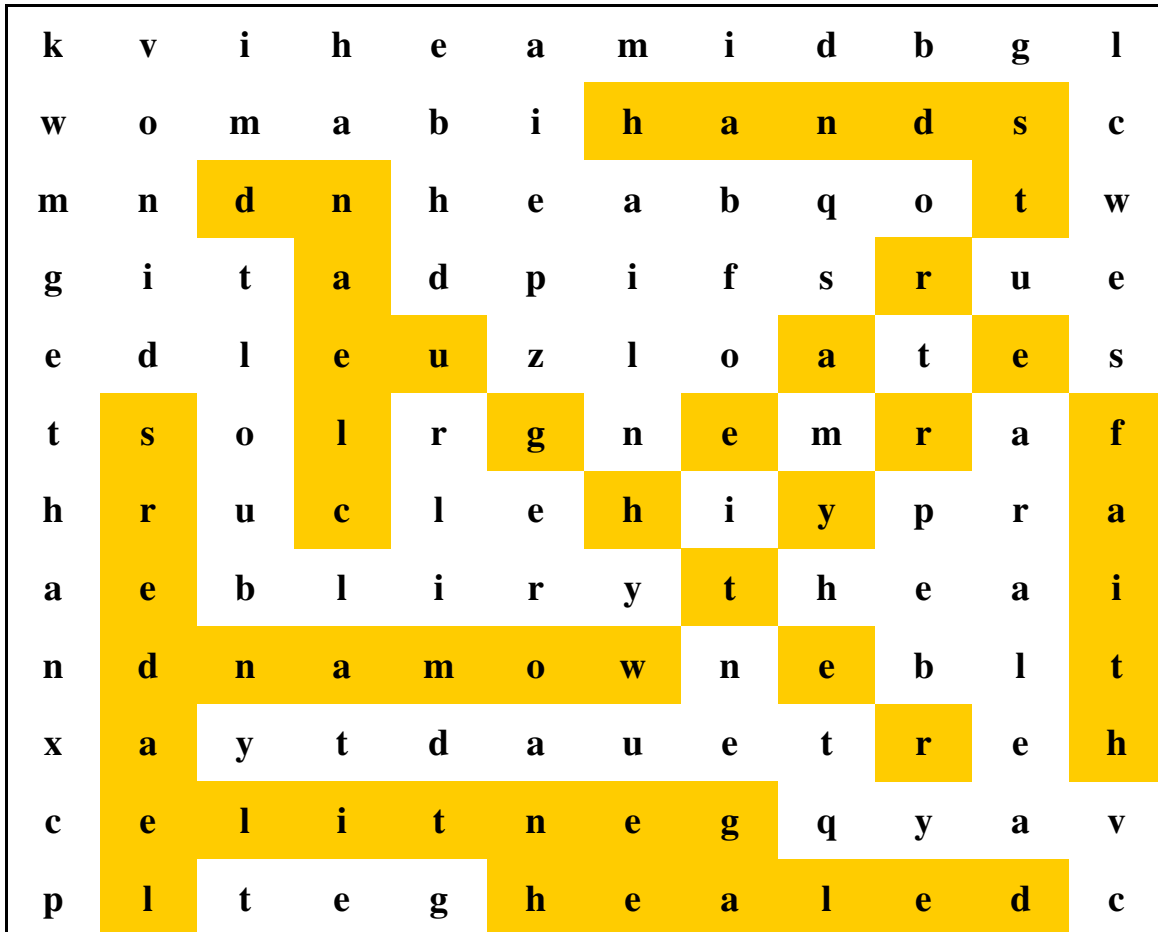


heart	hands	clean
leaders	Tyre	Gentile
daughter	woman	faith
healed		



# Word Search

## A Gentile Woman's Faith



heart	hands	clean
leaders	Tyre	Gentile
daughter	woman	faith
healed		

What were people who were  
not Jews called in the Bible?

G\_\_nt\_\_les



God looks at what is  
in our

Heart