

WONDERS

Title: **PERSISTENT FAITH**

Date: **July 14, 2024**

Leader's Tips:

- S** - Sensitivity with others. No one should feel left out.
- P** - Participation is encouraged during discussion.
- A** - Acknowledge guests. Make them feel welcome.
- C** - Confidentiality is key. What is shared stays in the group.
- E** - Encourage the group to pray for one another.

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Venue Option 1: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue Option 2: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or Via Online, ask, "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past we.

WELCOME:(15 mins):

Welcome everyone in the group.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:16

Ice-breaker question:

Q: Are you the type of person that doesn't easily give up or quit when you encounter difficulties? Or are you the type of person that gives up easily when difficulty comes?

Q: Do you know someone who is persistent and one who never gives up easily?

WORD (30–45 mins) - Main Text: Matthew 15:21-28 - The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

What can we learn from the PERSISTENT FAITH of this woman that we can apply in our daily lives:

1. The woman cried for help; (though Jesus didn't answer – Read Mathew 15:21-22)

In Matthew 15, after Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees and teachers of the law, He then travels to Tyre and Sidon (modern-day Lebanon and Syria) with His disciples. While dining with them, a Canaanite woman - who, being non-Jewish approached Jesus. Driven by deep desperation for her demon-possessed daughter, she pleads with Jesus for help. Despite cultural barriers, she doesn't seek a miracle for herself or ask for proof of Jesus' power; she simply requests healing for her daughter with boldness and urgency.

Q: What do you think made the woman trust in Jesus' power to heal her demon-possessed daughter?

Q: Have you ever been in a desperate situation, or have been on a desperate situation over someone you love?

Would you be open to share about this?

2. The woman knelt before Him; Jesus used it as an object lesson. - Read Matthew 15: 25

Instead of leaving, the woman bowed down and knelt on the ground before Jesus. Kneeling before someone is not only an act of desperate feeling of hopelessness, but humility and submission to the authority of Jesus. Here, Jesus emphasized

That God's love and mercy extends to both Jews and Gentiles. Like the woman, when we humbly surrender and acknowledge Jesus' power, trust in His love and surrender our situations to Him, we too can receive our miracles.

Q: Based on the story, what inspired you about the woman's response to Jesus?

Q: Would you do the same like what the Canaanite woman did or otherwise?

3. The woman said she is not worthy; Jesus healed her daughter.

The Canaanite woman knew she was unworthy of receiving anything from Jesus, yet she persisted. She crossed racial, social, cultural, and religious barriers, demonstrating her determination and reliance on Jesus. She reasoned with Jesus, arguing that if Jews were privileged to sit at the table, Gentiles could at least receive the crumbs. She expressed that even a small portion of Jesus' power would be enough to heal her daughter.

Q: Do you know someone who is as persistent as this woman, someone who never gives up easily?

Conclusion:

Persistent faith in Jesus can overcome obstacles and release God's blessings. Jesus' reactions didn't mean He ignored this non-Jewish woman; He did understand her desperation. The key is to have faith in Him. This miracle, like the healing of the centurion's servant, shows that Jesus' power is available to all those who believe. Her persistent faith resulted in her child's deliverance and healing.

Q: What is your take-away from the discussion? Partner with someone in prayer.

WORK: The Challenge (15 mins.)

P- Pray for one another. Ask "**what can I pray for you?**" (7mins.)

R- Remind to invite a friend on the next gathering.

A- Apply the message during the week.

Y- Yearn to share your faith with some one during the week.