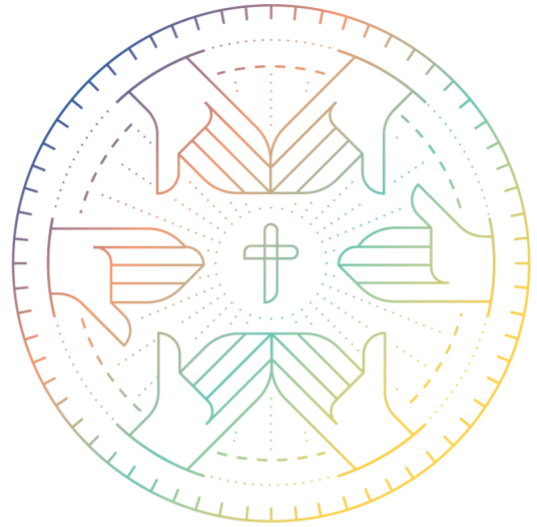


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What question have you most often wondered regarding prayer?

OR

If you had 10 minutes for a One-on-One conversation with Jesus, what would you talk to him about?
What question would you ask?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Read Mark 7:24-30.

What most stood out to you from this week's sermon?

INTO THE WORD (15 MINUTES)

Read Acts 10:34-35, 44-45 and Psalm 62:8. The Scriptures are clear that God shows no favoritism, as the story from Mark 7 illustrates this truth.

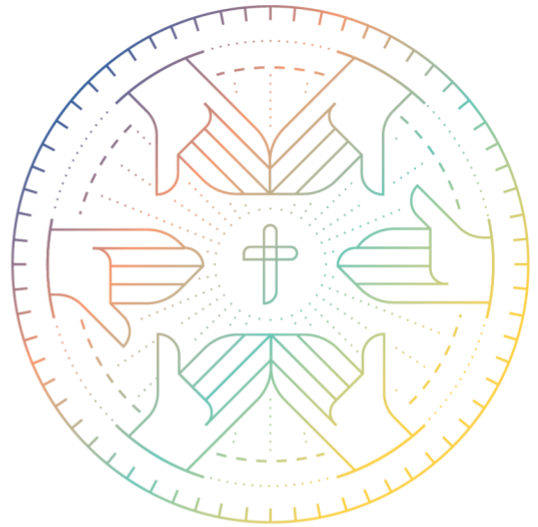
- 1) Discuss what the Syrophenician woman brought to the conversation with Jesus. The qualities you list are essentials in prevailing prayer.
- 2) How did she reflect the truth of Psalm 62:8?

Read Mark 7:27 and Matthew 15:24-25. Discuss the meaning of Jesus' use of the word "dog" in reference to the Syrophenician woman. Was it signifying something cultural, something derogatory or perhaps something metaphorical?

Read Matthew 6:1, 6:5-8. Discuss how these verses from Jesus' greatest sermon reflect on the need for humility in prayer? What do they teach us about humility in prayer?

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Read Mark 7:28-30. What did the woman's answer to Jesus mean? What was she saying and how does her statement represent boldness in prayer?

APPLICATION (20 MINUTES)

Host Guidance: Below are several separate application questions for your group to consider and discuss. Choose as many questions as you have time to discuss, but try to close with the last question below.

Take a look at your recent posture for prayer. Do you see the elements of the woman in your own prayer posture? Is there anything about her approach to Jesus you'd like to mimic?

What's one element of your personal prayer life that reflects your humility before God?

Discuss how we can come before God in prayer and demonstrate both humility and boldness? What does that look like for us? How can we do that?

Is there a situation in your life that is desperate? How can you reflect the Syrophenician woman's faith in your own situation? How do you show God both your trust and your desperation?

Discuss the meaning of the Tim Keller quote, "God will either give us what we ask or give us what we would have asked if we knew everything He knows." How does this encourage you today?

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Our Savior and Lord Jesus, we are grateful for this story today. It encourages us that you show no favoritism and that you are easily touched by our weakness and pain. Help us to believe that you a God who answers those who diligently seek you. Help us to trust in your power and your love, which meets us in our moments of despair. As we bring our lives and our circumstances to you, we trust in your answer because you know all things and you know what is best. Amen.