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# Crumbs for the Dogs?

Key References: Mark 7:24-30; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 43, pp. 399-403; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 19-21; Our Beliefs, nos. 11, 10, 14.















Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

## power**text**

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved'" (Romans 10:12, 13).

power**point**

Jesus calls us to accept everyone as God's precious child.

*Think of a time you wanted something badly but thought you might never get it because someone was prejudiced against you. Today's story is about a woman who had that experience.*

"Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed" (Matthew 15:22). The woman's voice rang out time after time as she called to Jesus for help.

Jesus and His disciples needed to get away from the crowds so He could prepare them for their mission of spreading the gospel. He had taken them north of Israel, to the country of Phoenicia, where not many people knew about Him. There they could find peace and quiet, and Jesus would have time to teach His disciples. But even in a foreign country this desperate mother had tracked Him down. In fact, Jesus had purposely gone where she could find Him. He already knew that this mother needed His help. And He hoped to teach His disciples a lesson by the way He interacted with her. But at first He kept walking as if He didn't hear her.

The disciples were frustrated because the woman kept following them. She was a Greek and a heathen—not a Jew who worshipped the true God. Why should Jesus waste His time helping her?

"Send her away," they said to Jesus (verse 23).

But Jesus didn't tell the woman to leave. Finally she came and knelt right in front of Him. "Lord, help me!" she pleaded (verse 25).

"Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs," He said (Mark 7:27). Jesus was referring to the fact that the Jews considered themselves to be the only children of God. They looked down on the heathen and called them "dogs." But the woman was not discouraged. She knew that Jesus was her only hope. No one else could drive the demons away from her daughter. She could not afford to lose this opportunity!



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**Sunday**

READ Read Mark 7:24-26 and this week's story, "Crumbs for the Dogs?"

REVIEW Review the power text, Romans 10:12, 13.

PRAY Thank God that He loves everyone the same.

**Monday**

READ Read Mark 7:27-30.

EXPLAIN Explain in your own words what Jesus said that sounded unkind. Why do you think Jesus said this?

THINK When have you misjudged someone?

CARE Treat kindly someone against whom you were prejudiced because of the ways that person is different.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to forgive you for misjudging someone.

**Tuesday**

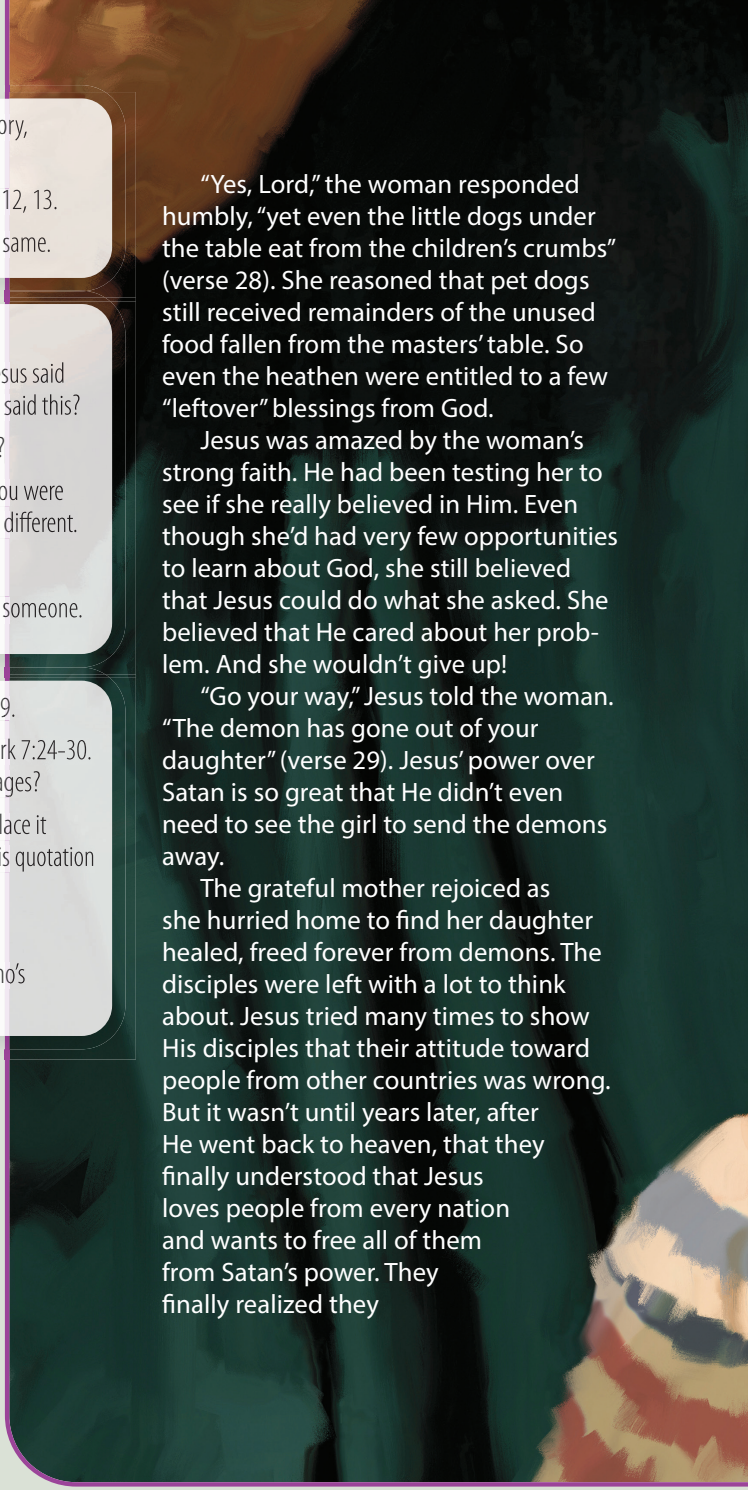
READ Read Acts 10:34 and Galatians 3:28, 29.

COMPARE Compare these two texts with Mark 7:24-30. What is similar or different about these messages?

COPY Copy Genesis 1:26, 27 on a card and place it where you'll see it often. Think about what this quotation says about someone you have misjudged.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for help to serve someone who's different.



"Yes, Lord," the woman responded humbly, "yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs" (verse 28). She reasoned that pet dogs still received remainders of the unused food fallen from the masters' table. So even the heathen were entitled to a few "leftover" blessings from God.

Jesus was amazed by the woman's strong faith. He had been testing her to see if she really believed in Him. Even though she'd had very few opportunities to learn about God, she still believed that Jesus could do what she asked. She believed that He cared about her problem. And she wouldn't give up!

"Go your way," Jesus told the woman. "The demon has gone out of your daughter" (verse 29). Jesus' power over Satan is so great that He didn't even need to see the girl to send the demons away.

The grateful mother rejoiced as she hurried home to find her daughter healed, freed forever from demons. The disciples were left with a lot to think about. Jesus tried many times to show His disciples that their attitude toward people from other countries was wrong. But it wasn't until years later, after He went back to heaven, that they finally understood that Jesus loves people from every nation and wants to free all of them from Satan's power. They finally realized they



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**Wednesday**

READ Read Galatians 3:28, 29.

FIND Find in a magazine five pictures of people and tear them out. On each picture, write your thoughts about people like the one in the picture.

DO Check to see whether your ideas are correct by getting to know people in each category.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you an opportunity to help someone in need this week.

**Thursday**

READ Read Genesis 1:26, 27.

THINK Observe people in a shopping mall. Toward what kinds of people are you prejudiced and why?

LIST List three specific things that you can do over the next few days to begin overcoming your prejudices.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you overcome your prejudices.

**Friday**

READ Read Colossians 3:11.

ACT Act out the Bible story with your family for worship tonight.

SING Sing "Side by Side We Stand."

SAY Repeat the power text, Romans 10:12, 13, by memory.

TALK Talk with your family about how you can widen your circle of friends and acquaintances to include people not like yourselves.

PRAY Thank God that all people are made in His image and that He wants to restore that image in everyone.

needed to share the good news of the gospel with people in every part of the world.

It doesn't matter where we live, or what color of skin we have, or who our parents are. All of us need to come to Jesus in prayer and ask Him to save us. We can trust that He will keep His promises as we decide to follow Him. Like the woman in this story, we need to have strong faith in Jesus and trust Him to answer our prayers according to His will.

The lesson the disciples learned that day is a lesson for you and me as well. All around us are people that need the loving touch of someone who cares. It doesn't matter who they are—Black or White, Christian or non-Christian, rich or poor, fellow citizen or foreigner. Jesus can save anyone from the power of sin and Satan. Somebody needs our help today. Somebody needs to hear the story of Jesus. Will we share His love with them?





# GOD'S GOT OUR NUMBER

**Instructions:** Phone numbers replace some of the words in the following Bible verse. Using the phone pad as a guide, can you figure out the different people groups in the Bible verse that no longer exist in Christ? Ones are blanks.

"There is neither 539-1111 nor 4733-5111, there is neither 752-8311 nor 373-3111, there is neither 625-3111 nor 336-2531; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

