**Jesus and the Gentile Woman**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 15:22-29; Mark 7:25-30**

**Bible Story Number: 2010360**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

The ministry of Jesus was becoming more focused at this point in his life. He had clearly come to bring the message to the Jewish people that he was the Messiah. However, the people, especially the religious leaders, did not believe him.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 15:22-29; Mark 7:25-30**

This is what the Bible says.

A Gentile woman (a non-Jew) approached Jesus while he was traveling in the region of Tyre and Sidon. She was a Greek living in Canaan, and she was a Syrophoenician by birth.

She had a daughter who was tormented by a demon. She had heard of Jesus and went to him. She begged Jesus to heal her daughter, but he did not even speak to her.

The disciples asked Jesus to send her away because she just would not leave them alone. She kept insisting. Jesus responded to the disciples and told them he was sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel (the Jews).

The woman heard what he said, but would not give up. She knelt in front of Jesus and said, “Lord help me.”

He finally answered her, “It isn’t right to take the children’s bread and throw it to their dogs.”

“Yes, Lord,” she said, “yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table!”

Then Jesus replied to her, “Woman, your faith is great. You have what you asked for. The demon is gone from your daughter.” And from that moment her daughter was cured. She went home and found the child lying on the bed and the demon was gone.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Where was the woman from and why is that important to the story?
* Why do you think Jesus ignored the woman when she first approached him?
* What did the disciples want Jesus to do with her?
* What was the focus of Jesus’ ministry and how do we know this?
* What did Jesus say to the woman?
* How did the woman respond to Jesus’ statement, “It isn’t right to take the children’s bread and throw it to their dogs”?
* How did Jesus respond to the woman’s reply?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.