

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 August 2023 - Year A

***“Woman, your faith is great.”***

### Something to Think About

What does it mean to have faith?

### The Story

The woman in this story is a stranger and a foreigner, but she asks Jesus for help. Firstly Jesus doesn't answer her, but she asks again. Jesus reminds the woman that he was sent only to the people of Israel. The disciples try to send her away, but she doesn't give up. She displays great faith, more faith, in fact than the disciples ever show! Jesus notices the woman's faith and he changes his mind. Jesus gives her what she wants. The woman's daughter is healed.

### The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

15:21-28

Jesus went to the territory near the cities of Tyre and Sidon. Suddenly a Canaanite woman from there came out shouting, "Lord and Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is full of demons."

Jesus did not say a word. But the woman kept following along and shouting, so his disciples came up and asked him to send her away.

Jesus said, "I was sent only to the people of Israel! They are like a flock of lost sheep."

The woman came closer. Then she kneeled down and begged, "Lord, please help me!"

Jesus replied, "It isn't right to take food away from children and feed it to dogs." "Lord, that's true," the woman said, "but even dogs get the crumbs that fall from their owner's table."

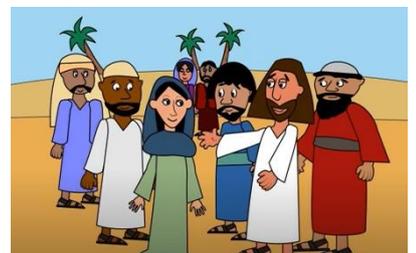
Jesus answered, "Dear woman, you really do have a lot of faith, and you will be given what you want."

At that moment her daughter was healed.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Watch the video: [Jesus and the Canaanite Woman](#)



## Group Discussion

Jesus spent time with this woman who was a foreigner and a stranger. Who, today, would you consider a foreigner and a stranger? Maybe they are people we have not yet met or whom we have judged to be 'different'. Discuss with the children.

It is easy to be kind and friendly to neighbours. Invite the children to think about ways they can reach out to other children who may not be their close friends. What would be some practical and safe ways of 'reaching out' to others?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader 1:* We pray that all leaders will value peace and harmony. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for those who find it hard to believe. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for people of all faiths. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray that we will turn to Jesus when we need help. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will be friendly and welcoming to all people. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for the many ways you help us, and for the healing you bring to our world. Help us to trust you more each day.  
Amen.

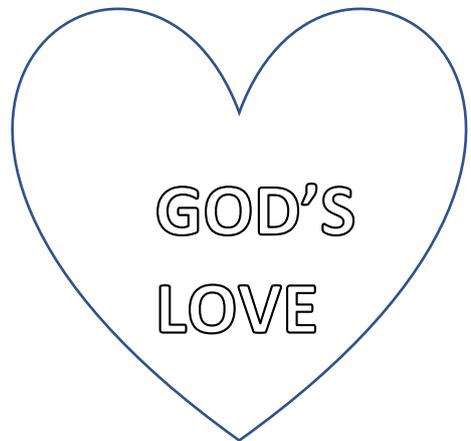
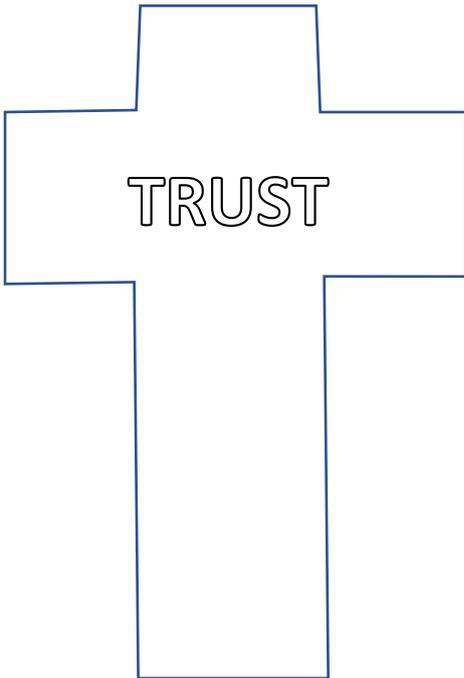
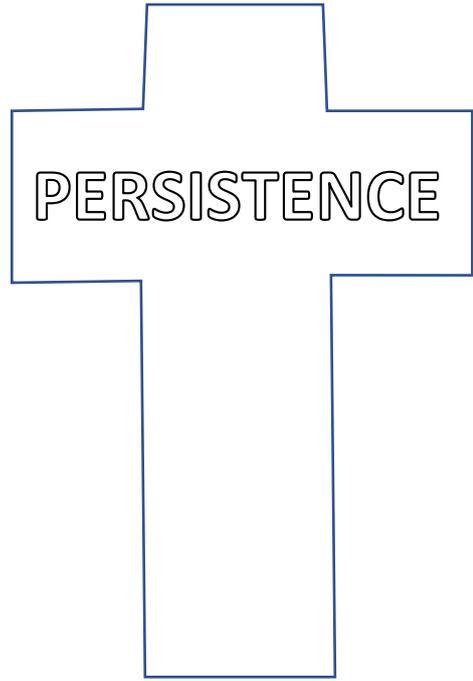
## Group Activity

### Shaping Our Faith

*You will need: template for each child preferably on white card, scissors, wool, hole-punch, coloured markers or pencils.*

- 1) Talk through the meaning of the words on each shape.
- 2) Invite children to colour in the printables.
- 3) Punch a hole in the top of each shape.
- 4) Thread wool through the shapes.
- 5) These can be used as wall decorations, or as a simple necklace or belt.





# JESUS HELPS EVERYONE!

**A WOMAN FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY ASKED  
JESUS TO HELP HER DAUGHTER WHO WAS SICK.**

**SHE ASKED,  
AND ASKED AGAIN.  
SHE DID NOT GIVE UP.**

**JESUS SAW HER FAITH  
AND HEALED HER DAUGHTER.**



**WHAT DO YOU ASK JESUS FOR?**

