KEY VERSE: Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish.” And right then her daughter was healed.
—Matthew 15:28 (CEB)

How Badly Do You Want It?
❖ Can you think of something that you want now or have wanted desperately in the past?

❖ How would you feel if Jesus told you that you couldn’t have what you wanted?

MATTHEW 15:21-28 (NRSV)
21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”
23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”
24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”
26 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”
27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”
28 Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.”
After reading today’s verses, look up Mark 7:24-29. What similarities/differences do you see between these two versions?

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**HOW JESUS RESPONDED**

● Are you surprised by Jesus’ response? Why do you think Jesus said this to the woman?

___________________________________________________________________________________________

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● Why do you think Jesus changed his mind? What did the woman do to persuade him?

___________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________

● Some scholars believe that Jesus didn’t change his mind, but instead was making a point by actually performing for his disciples. What do you think? Should Jesus have been kinder to the woman in this story? Is his response OK because in the end her daughter was healed?

___________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________
GREAT NEWS
Use the space below to write a letter from the Gentile woman’s point of view and explain what happened to her family and friends.

ON THE OUTS
What are some ways you can be generous to people who are different from you? ________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________