

FAITH

changes everything

Faith Changes My Willingness to Pray for Others

GETTING STARTED

This week, we are exploring how our faith impacts our willingness to go to Jesus on behalf of others through prayer. To get started, talk about the following:

- Why do you think we pray? What happens when we pray?
- What role does prayer play in your spiritual life?
- For Lent, we are inviting everyone to engage in the 5-3-1 Challenge: Pray for 5, Invite 3, and Bring 1 to Easter Worship. We will explore these more as the weeks go on, but this week we will focus on the 5. Take a moment as you open in prayer to silently lift up 5 people. You might consider setting a reminder on your phone to pray for these 5 people regularly throughout Lent.
- Pray: Jesus, hear us as we pray today and lift up these 5 people to you...(silence)...thank you for hearing us. Thank you for caring deeply for us, and helping us care for others in return. Amen.



stlukesumc.com/sermons



Search "St. Luke's"

Matthew 15: 21-28

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.



Sermon & Scripture Discussion

Read this weeks' Scripture together, then discuss:

- Pastor Rob named some reasons why people are turned off by Jesus- have you ever found yourself in this situation? What was it that made it hard to be open to Jesus?
- This week's Scripture presents a complicated dynamic between Jesus and a Canaanite woman. As you read the passage, notice and discuss- what might have kept this woman from going to Jesus?
- Dive a bit deeper into the passage- what do you think is happening in Jesus' interaction with the woman? Why do you think he responds to her the way he does? Why do you think she chose to go to Jesus to receive help?
- Despite all that is going on here, the woman is persistent in her prayer. Have you ever had a time in your life where you prayed like that woman?
- The woman's love for her daughter caused her to hold on to God as hard as she could. Have you ever had a need that was so important that it kept you from letting go of God?
- Consider what is going on in your personal world and the wider world around you- where might God be inviting you to believe in spite of your unbelief?

Prayer Requests

"Faith understands that God has been helping us even more than we know."

-Rev. Rob Fuquay