



## Preparing For Family Prayer

### SPACE

To create your family prayer space:

- Gather around the table;
- Clear the space of all distractions;
- Engage in the prayer either before or after sharing a family meal at the table.

### CONNECTING

To encourage connection, establish this space as:

- Phone and other technology free (except to use the #blessed Sway or to read the PDF);
- "Pay out" and judgement free.

### SHARING

When it is time to share:

- Each member of the family feels invited to share freely and uninterrupted;
- Listen actively and openly to each other;
- Affirm each other;
- Provide the option to "pass" if someone would prefer not to share.

### PRAYING

Once you are ready to get started:

- Chose a member of the family to lead the prayer session;
- Chose a member of the family to read the Gospel;
- Chose the discussion question you would like to engage with.

### PRAYERS OF INTENTION

You might like to offer prayers for:

- Immediate needs in your household;
- Relatives who may be sick or in need;
- Broader community (homeless, those in CoVid lockdown, poor, sick etc)
- Global concerns (war, famine, drought etc)

# Living FAITH Family Edition



## 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

### “A WOMAN’S FAITH”

#### WE CONNECT

Choose a member (or members) of your family to express why you are grateful to them.

I am grateful to you (*name*) because...

Once each person has had their turn to share end with:

God of Love;  
We are truly grateful for the gift of each one of us,  
And for the many ways You bless our family.  
**Amen.**

#### WE LISTEN

#### ***A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (15:21-28)***

##### A Woman’s Faith

Jesus left and 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 knelt down and begged, “Please help me, Lord!”

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**



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## WE SHARE

Imagine being a person who can teach Jesus a thing or two. Well, that is exactly what the woman in this story did. When she cries out for help Jesus basically says that his work is only to help the Jewish people of Israel. The unnamed woman very quickly teaches him that he is wrong. Compassion is about responding to all needs and not just the needs of those in your own community. The woman shows him that Jesus should also attend to the needs of the Gentiles (the outsiders) as well as the Jewish people. The woman's clever answer reveals her deep faith and understanding of God, and therefore, Jesus is able to bring healing because she is a woman of great faith.

Choose one of these discussion questions to engage with:

Do we put limits on who we're prepared to respond to, even when we see great need? Jesus didn't just say that he realised he was wrong, he proved it with actions. What actions can we as a family take to be more compassionate to those we normally chose to ignore?

This woman showed incredible faith. So much so, that her faith not only healed her daughter (which is miraculous enough) but she also transformed Jesus' ministry. How does faith help us today, particularly in CoVid19 times?

## WE OFFER

Each member of the family is invited to offer a prayer of intention. (See the guide above).

***We pray for (intention)... Lord, hear us.***

When all intentions have been offered everyone says together:

***Lord hear our prayer.***

## WE GIVE THANKS

Loving God,  
We are so grateful for spending this time together in prayer and for being challenged to start meeting the needs of those around us, particularly those whom we would normally ignore.  
Thank you for the gift of each of us,  
And help us to continue to appreciate how precious our family is.  
**Amen.**

***"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."***

- St. Augustine

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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version



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