Preschool–Grade 6

The Syrophoenician Woman

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can ask Jesus for help.
Bible passage: Mark 7. Read Mark 7:24–30 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter" *Mark 7:29 (KJV)*. **Thy** means your.
You need: a Bible, a small loaf of bread or a picture of one, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 7. Put the bread where the kids can see it.

1. Opening game: Please, May I? (5 minutes)

Kids stand in a line. You are the "teacher." One child at a time asks, "Please, may I take a step?" Answer, "Yes, you may!" and the child takes one step toward you. Everyone gets a turn until all the kids reach you. Say: "Good asking! Today we will hear a true story about a mother who asked Jesus for help, and she kept asking."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 7. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus went into a house far away (Mark 7:24). *(Pretend to open a door.)*
A mother had a little girl who needed help (7:25). *(Hold your hand low, as tall as a little girl.)*
The mother came to Jesus. She bowed down at His feet (7:25). *(Kneel down.)*
She asked Jesus to help her girl (7:26). *(Fold your hands.)*
Say it with me: "Please help, Jesus!"
Jesus talked about children's bread (7:27). *(Hold up the bread.)*
She said, "Yes, Lord." She asked for even a crumb (7:28). *(Pinch a tiny crumb.)*
Jesus told her to go home: her girl was free (7:29). *(Point to the door.)*
She went home. Her girl was lying on the bed, all better (7:30). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus helps!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who needed help? *(The mother's little girl, Mark 7:25)*
2. What did the mother do at Jesus' feet? *(She bowed down and asked Him for help, 7:25–26)*
3. Where was the girl when her mother came home? *(On the bed, 7:30)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.' That means: go home, your girl is well." Teach the motions: point to the door for "go thy way," sweep your hand away for "the devil is gone out," and hold your hand low, as tall as a little girl, for "thy daughter." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Mark 7:29" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: The House (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a house with a door, and color it. While they color, ask: "Who did the mother ask for help? Who was home on the bed?" Kids who finish early can play Please, May I? again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear Jesus, I can ask You for help.
Thank You for helping us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it simple: the mother asked, Jesus helped, the girl was well. Say "an unclean spirit was troubling her" only if a child asks what was wrong. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is scared of the word "devil": say, "Jesus is stronger than everything. He made the devil go out, and the little girl was safe at home."

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