Preschool–Grade 6

The Syrophoenician Woman

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Come to Jesus humbly, and keep asking Him for help.
Bible passage: Mark 7:24–30. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter." *Mark 7:29 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, a small loaf of bread (or a picture of one) on a paper plate, paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 7:24. Put the bread on the plate.

1. Opening game: Just a Crumb (5 minutes)

Hold up the bread. Ask: *If you were very hungry, would you want the whole loaf?* (Yes!) *What if all you could have was one tiny crumb?* Pretend to pick up one crumb with two fingers. Then play: kids sit in a circle. One child is the "asker" and goes to a friend and says, "May I please have a crumb?" The friend answers, "Yes, you may!" and passes a pretend crumb. Then that friend is the asker. Say: "Today we will meet a mother who said even a crumb from Jesus would be enough."

2. Bible story: Yes, Lord (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 7, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Jesus went far to the north, into the land near the cities of **Tyre and Sidon** (Mark 7:24). He went into a house. He didn't want anyone to know He was there, but He could not be hid (7:24).

A woman heard that Jesus was there. She had a young **daughter**, a little girl, and an **unclean spirit** was troubling her (7:25). The Bible also calls it a **devil**. The mother came to Jesus and fell down at His feet (7:25). She was a **Greek**, which means she was not from Israel (7:26). She **besought** Jesus, which means she begged Him, to cast the devil out of her daughter (7:26).

Jesus answered with a picture of a family meal. "Let the children first be filled," He said. It is not right to take the children's **bread** and throw it to the dogs (7:27). Jesus had come first to the people of Israel (Matthew 15:24).

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The story continues: The woman didn't argue, and she didn't give up. She said, "Yes, Lord," and then she asked again: even the dogs under the **table** eat the children's **crumbs** (7:28). She believed that even a crumb of Jesus' help would be enough!

Read Mark 7:29 from your Bible: "And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter." The woman went home. When she came to her house, the devil was gone out, and her daughter was lying on the bed (7:30). Jesus had helped her girl, just as He said!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did Jesus go? *(Into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, Mark 7:24)*
2. Who needed help? *(The woman's young daughter, 7:25)*
3. What did the woman do when she came to Jesus? *(She fell at His feet and begged Him, 7:25–26)*
4. What did she say about the crumbs? *("Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs," 7:28)*
5. What did she find when she got home? *(The devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed, 7:30)*

4. Memory verse: Go Thy Way Walk (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **saying** means what she said, **go thy way** means go home, **thy** means your, and the **devil** is the unclean spirit that troubled her daughter. Say the verse together in these three parts: *And he said unto her, / For this saying go thy way; / the devil is gone out of thy daughter. Mark 7:29.* Then kids line up at one side of the room. Each time the class says the whole verse, everyone takes three steps toward "home" on the other side. When they reach home, everyone shouts "Mark 7:29!"

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The woman wasn't from Israel, but Jesus helped her. Jesus wants to help everyone who comes to Him. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: keep asking Jesus: pray every day this week for someone you love who needs help.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Syrophoenician woman word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/the-syrophoenician-woman-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the Syrophoenician woman craft (vbshq.com/crafts/the-syrophoenician-woman-craft), or **Someone I Pray For:** each child draws a big house on paper, and inside it someone they will keep praying for this week. Let a few kids show their pictures and pray for those people together.

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You for helping the woman's daughter. Thank You that we can come to You and keep asking You for help. Help us be humble and trust You. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why Jesus talked about dogs: say, "Jesus was using a picture of a family meal. The woman wasn't upset. She said, 'Yes, Lord,' and kept asking, and Jesus helped her." Keep to the words the Bible gives, and don't add more.

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