



August 20, 2023, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of grace and mercy, give us boldness to ask of you what we need, even—and especially—when we feel you are not listening. Let us never be afraid to be persistent in prayer for the sake of the whole creation. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15:28)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus explained that words and actions have more ability to pollute or heal than what we put into our bodies. Then a Gentile woman challenges Jesus to heed his own words, and she is rewarded for her faith.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Why do you think Jesus reprimanded the Gentile woman for asking for his help? Was Jesus trying to teach the disciples a lesson or was he wrong? How did his encounter with the woman change him?

When have you been challenged to rethink your words or actions? How did you grow?

For the littles: How do you make your family the best it can be?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God strengthen your faith in the face of adversity. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Consider one person in your life that you work hard to avoid. Make a point to be in their life more often this week and think of them as God's child. Consider how your extra exposure to them shifts how you feel or think about them.



**Go Deeper:** Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 130; Genesis 43:1-34; Acts 15:1-21

Tuesday, Psalm 130; Genesis 44:1-34; Romans 11:13-29

Wednesday, Psalm 130; Genesis 45:16-28; Matthew 8:1-13

Thursday, Psalm 124; Genesis 49:1-33; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Friday, Psalm 124; Genesis 49:29-50:14; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Saturday, Psalm 124; Genesis 50:15-26; Matthew 16:5-12