

BE VULNERABLE

#6 This woman was told “Not yet,” but her faith was so persistent that she stayed at Jesus’ feet anyway. Where in your life right now are you facing a closed door or even silence from God, and how does her example of persistent faith change the way you view that struggle?

#7 This woman’s faith was fueled by her love for someone else (her daughter). Who is someone in your life—perhaps someone who feels far from God—that you need to be persistent on behalf of this week? What is one specific way you will pray for, or serve, them over the next seven days?

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Commit to pray for at least 3 prayer requests from your Life Group)

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A YEAR WITH JESUS

Rev. Brandon Babcock, Ph.D.
May 3, 2026
A Year with Jesus: Part 18
springfieldfaithcenter.org/sermons

MIRACLES: NO LONGER DEFILED

Mark 7:24-30

The Story:

- The Setting - defiled region
- The Encounter - a defiled woman
- The Miracle - a defiling spirit exorcised

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus ministered with a commitment to ***mission*** and ***mercy***.
2. Jesus ***erases*** the old taboo of “clean” and “unclean” people.

God’s gift of salvation is open to all who believe.

3. The Syrophenician woman becomes a model of discipleship:
 - ***Faith***
 - ***Humility***
 - ***Understanding***

LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of May 3, 2026

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

BE FRIENDLY

#1 If you were entering a high-stakes debate or a "battle of wits," which fictional character (from a book, movie, or TV show) would you want as your teammate, and why?

Thinking back to when you were a child, how would you approach a parent, family-member, teacher or coach with a request? What tactics would you use?

BE OPEN

#2 Mark tells us this woman was a "Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia." To the Jewish audience of the day, she was the ultimate outsider. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like the outsider in the room? What was that experience like for you?

#3 When you hear Jesus' initial response to the woman about the "children's bread" and the "dogs," what is your honest first reaction? Do you find His response challenging, confusing, or something else?

In our own lives, how do we decide who gets our best energy and who gets the "crumbs"?

#4 Jesus used bread as a metaphor constantly:

John 6:32-35, NIV

³²Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴"Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

³⁵Then Jesus declared, "**I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.**"

How do the verses above change, or add to, your understanding of the story Pastor Brandon preached on?

In your opinion, what was the woman asking for when she said that, "even the dogs under the table feed on the children's crumbs"?

#5 The woman in the story seemed to know that the "dogs" were soon to be welcomed as children in God's family as well:

Ephesians 2:17-20, NIV

¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹Consequently, **you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,** ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

When you think about being a citizen or child of God's kingdom, and a member of his household, do you feel like those things are true of you, or do you feel more like an outsider and a stranger? Why do you think that is?