

CHILDRENS
LESSON
GUIDES

FAITH OF A GENTILE WOMAN MATTHEW 15:21-28

God's Power Comes Through

Bible Background

- Read: Matthew 15:21-28
- In This Passage: A woman comes to Jesus, begging him to heal her daughter. At first, Jesus ignores her. But she keeps begging, because she's desperate! Finally, Jesus addresses her, and she responds with faith. He is impressed with her faith and heals her daughter.
- Bible Point: God's power comes through.
- Theme Verse: "A final word: *Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*" Ephesians 6:10

Prepare Your Heart

- You'll Be Discussing: **God's power comes through.** Kids may feel like God is ignoring their requests for help, too. After all, God doesn't always do exactly what we want. Help kids see that even when God doesn't do what they want—and even when life feels hopeless—God's power does come through for them.
- Think About: When have you felt hopeless? How did you see God come through?
- Pray: for your kids who might feel ignored, that they would feel seen by God and embrace his power.

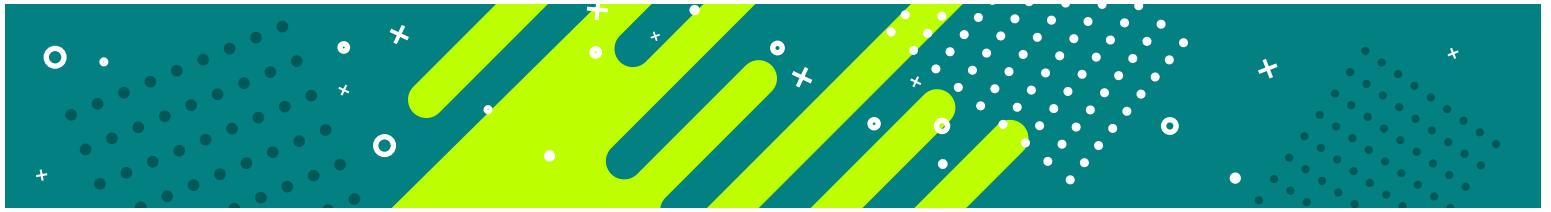
1. Watch the ECBC KidsChurch Video -- eastcooperbaptist.com/children

2. Family Discussion Time

Say: Today we've learned that God's power comes through and we've seen some examples of how God's power can come through to bring hope in hopeless situations.

Ask:

- Which story stood out to you?
- How have you seen hope when you were in that kind of a situation?
- Why might these stories feel hopeless at first?



- How does this video change the way you think about hopeless situations?

Say: This video showed that even when things feel hopeless, God's power comes through. Nothing is ever hopeless when we have Jesus in our lives!

3. Family Game

That's Crumby!

Supplies:

- Small craft pompoms (several per child, wait to distribute during the game)
- Upbeat music (optional)

Collect Pompoms

Say: Today we're exploring how God's power comes through. The woman in our Bible story told Jesus that even dogs gather crumbs that fall from their master's table. She just wanted some crumbs of God's power and hope! Let's play a game where you'll collect crumbs.

- Kids need to sit on the floor, spread out. They can't move from where they are sitting for this game.
- You'll walk around, tossing handfuls of pompoms in the air.
- Kids will gather as many pompoms as they can without leaving their spot.
- If you'd like, play music while kids play.
- After the game, have kids count up how many "crumbs" they gathered.

Talk About It

Ask:

- What was your strategy to gather crumbs?
- Have you ever seen a dog waiting for crumbs? What do you think their strategy is?
- As you think about dogs waiting for crumbs, what does that show you about waiting for God's power to come through?

Say: Sometimes things feel hopeless. But like a hopeful dog waiting for crumbs, we can wait to see God's power drop into our lives. We can have hope that God's power comes through.

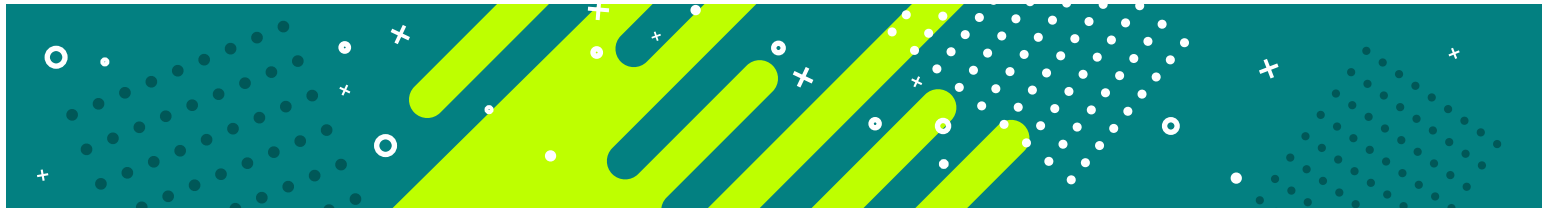
4. Family Prayer

Step and Pray

Say: God's power comes through. Sometimes, we see his power come through one step at a time. So we'll take slow steps in place as we pray.

- Lead kids in slowly walking in place and praying silently about something that seems hopeless.
- Pray: God, thank you that no matter what seems hopeless to us, your power comes through. Help us find hope in you. In Jesus' name, amen.





5. Family Devo for the Week (Use this easy follow-up devotional anytime this week to reinforce the lesson.)

What Can I Hope For?

Supplies:

- Bible
- White paper plates (1 per child)
- Washable markers (several colors per child)

Draw Strength

Have kids each get out a white paper plate and the markers from their supply bag.

Say: We've been learning that God's power comes through, even when we feel hopeless. But God doesn't always do what we ask him to, does he? So what can we hope for? Let's find out! And as we explore, we'll add things to our plates to remind us about what the woman in the Bible said—even dogs eat the scraps that fall from their masters' plates. Let's see what kind of "scraps" we can hope for from God's plate.

Read Isaiah 40:31.

Ask:

- What can hoping in God bring?

Say: When we hope in God, God's power comes through by giving us strength, even when we're tired! On your plate, draw a kind of food with a strong flavor. You'll draw two other kinds of food, so leave room.

Allow time for kids to draw.

Draw a Plan

Say: Let's see what else is on God's plate.

Read Jeremiah 29:11.

Ask:

- What comes with hope?

Say: When we trust God, God's power comes through with good plans that bring hope and a future. On your plate, draw a kind of food that takes a long time to make . . . that will remind you of making a plan.

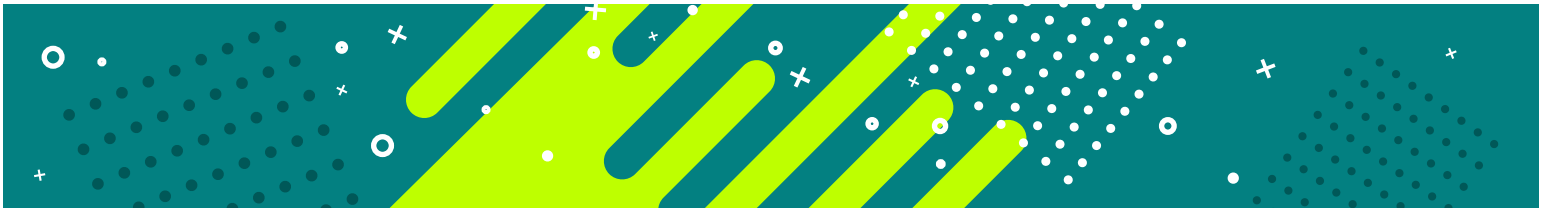
Allow time for kids to draw.

Draw a Future in Heaven

Say: There's another thing on God's plate!

Read Colossians 1:4-5.





Ask:

- What can we hope for in heaven?

Say: When we believe in Jesus, God's power comes through by saving us a spot in heaven. There, we'll never be sad or get hurt! Plus, we get to be with Jesus! What an amazing thing to hope for! On your plate, draw your favorite dessert . . . something you really look forward to.

Allow time for kids to draw.

Ask:

- Which of the things on God's plate gives you the most hope?

Say: Sometimes, like the woman in the Bible story, we feel hopeless. She needed Jesus' help, and he was ignoring her! Even when it feels like God is ignoring us, we can trust that God's power comes through. And we can find hope and strength in his plans for us and in looking forward to heaven.