



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## PRAYER - When God Seems Silent

March 19, 2023

### GETTING STARTED

- How do you typically react when you are busy or distracted and you encounter someone who needs your help?
- What is something you have prayed for regularly or are still praying for that has not been answered yet?

### QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

- Why do you think Jesus responded to the woman in Matthew 15 the way He did?
- What did Jesus mean when He said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel"? (Rom. 15:8)
- Do you tend to persist in prayer until you see a result or simply stop praying about something after a few times?
- In what ways does our persistence in prayer develop a deeper relationship with God and display His character?
- What are some things we can learn about prayer when we look at the example of this woman in Matthew 15? (*the woman knew who Jesus was, had humility, and was persistent*)

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGES [Matthew 15:21-28]

- Where did Jesus travel and why is this significant? (Mt. 15:21)
- What was Jesus' response to the woman's request? Why is this unique? (Mt. 15:23)
- What did the disciples urge Jesus to do? (Mt. 21:24)
- How did the woman respond to Jesus' statements regarding her request? (Mt. 15:25,27)
- How does her response demonstrate her great faith? (Mt. 15:27-28)
- How does the faith of this woman compare to the faith of the Pharisees? (Mt. 15:1-6)

### APPLY THE PASSAGE

- The woman sought Jesus out on her own initiative (15:22). When you find yourself in need, do you immediately pursue Jesus? What need has God recently brought into your life that has led you to seek Jesus?
- What keeps most people (and possibly you) from praying on a regular basis? What are some specific ways we can encourage/challenge one another to overcome those challenges?
- Is there anyone or anything you need to keep persevering in prayer for? How can we pray with you?