

OBJECT LESSON: THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN

Matthew 15:12-28; Mark 7:24-30

Adapted from: [www. https://www.sundaychildrensfocus.com](https://www.sundaychildrensfocus.com)

****WHAT DOES A CHRISTIANS LOOK LIKE?**

THEME: Anyone could be a Christian, no matter what people look like.

OBJECT: 4-5 Pictures of various people (dressed differently, different races, male/female, etc.).

On the back of the pictures put a blank piece of paper. Mark one piece of paper with cross to symbolize they are a Christian. You can use someone like stage performer, Alice Cooper for some wow factor to the final reveal.

LESSON:

Today, we are looking at a time that Jesus talked with and helped a woman that was different from Him and His disciples. He has an interesting chat with her and teaches us a big lesson about how we view the world and the people around us.

****Read either Matthew or Mark's account out loud, or have a student read**

- Who can be a true believer in Jesus?

We might be surprised where Jesus would find faith. Show children various pictures of people and ask them to guess who the Christian is. This morning I have some "people" pictures that I would like to show you. (

****Hold up the various pictures so the children can see them clearly.**

- Where do you think they come from?
- Do they look rich or poor? Etc.
- Which person might come from Japan (or another country)?
- Which person do you think is the youngest, or oldest?
- Which of these people lives in the desert in Africa?
- Who do you think looks the wealthiest?

****Let the children respond to each question you choose. After going through all the pictures with the above questions, resume with the lesson.**

- One last question for all the pictures, Which of these people looks like a Christian?

Those are some good guesses. (You could take a vote on which is the picture of the Christian)
On the back of the person who is the Christian I've put a big cross.

- Is it this one? (Turn over the picture) No.
- Is it this one? (Turn over the picture) No.
- Is it this one? (Turn over the picture) Yes.

Most of you didn't pick this person ('wow factor' picture like Alice Cooper or another. Make sure to find the backstory of the 'wow factor' picture and talk about their testimony). It surprised me too. When I first saw this picture, I was surprised to find out they were a Christian. But they are. They were baptized into Christ.

We might be very surprised at who has faith in Jesus Christ. We certainly can't tell by the color of people's skin, how they dress, what job they have or where they come from. In today's lesson Jesus met a woman who was considered by others to be an outsider who couldn't possibly be drawn to God. But it turned out that she had great faith in Jesus. In response to her faith Jesus heard her prayer and healed her daughter.

Prayer:

Lord God, Thank you for the many different people all around the world who are followers of your son Jesus. These Christians are our brothers and sisters in God's family. Help us to fully trust in you like this foreign woman that Jesus met. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen!