

The Syrophenician woman shouldn't be approaching Jesus for three different reasons. First, she is a gentile and Jesus is a Jew. Second, Jesus has gone into a house and does not want anyone to know he is there. Third, Jesus has essentially told her "No" after she made her initial request.

1. Why do you think the Syrophenician woman was so bold in her pursuit of Jesus?
2. Do you think you would have persisted in the same way she did?

At many points in the Bible, God's followers are encouraged to debate and dialogue with God. Abraham debates with God over Sodom and Gomorrah. The Psalms are regularly trying to persuade God to intervene differently in a situation. And Moses changes God's mind in Exodus.

3. Is this your normal understanding of prayer? Do you think of prayer as, at least at times, debating with God?
4. Is it surprising that this is a type of interaction that God invites us to?
5. How can you be praying for our city during this time of "social distancing" and amidst the fears and anxieties of the pandemic in our world?
6. Can you think of someone that you can appropriately reach out to and pray with?

Questions for families with children:

1. What do you think prayer is? Is prayer intimidating for you? Fun for you? Boring?
2. Jesus encourages us to pray boldly. How do you think you could pray boldly? What does that look like for you?
3. How can you be praying for our city during this challenging time?

Weekly Bible Readings:

March 16 - Isaiah 35:4-7 (read in worship on Sunday)

March 17 - Mark 10:46-52

March 18 - Mark 11:1-11

March 19 - Mark 11:12-14

March 20 - Mark 11:15-19

March 21 - Mark 11:20-25

Passage for Sunday, March 1:

Mark 6:30-44 & Mark 8:1-10