International Fellowship of Christians
For Christ and His Kingdom · Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Home Fellowship Outline
WEEK 17 · 2026

2026 THEME
Transformed to Bear Much Fruit

THIS WEEK'S STUDY

A Faith That Changes Your Family's Story

Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

I Introduction

We all come from families, and every family carries a story, some visible, others hidden. For many, these stories include struggles: delayed breakthroughs, recurring challenges, strained relationships, health battles, or patterns that seem to pass from one generation to another. These issues are not always individual; they often affect the entire household.

The Bible makes it clear that God is not distant from these realities. Throughout Scripture we see individuals who stood in the gap for their families and saw God intervene. Women like Rahab, the widow of Zarephath, and the Shunammite woman did not act because life was easy; they acted in the middle of crisis. Their faith was not theoretical; it was practical, risky, and persistent.

> FAITH UNDER PRESSURE
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> *Faith, according to Scripture, is the language that moves God (Hebrews 11:6). But real faith is not tested when things are comfortable; it is tested in moments of pressure, delay, and uncertainty. It is easy to say we believe; it is harder to hold on when answers are not immediate.*

II A Mother Who Would Not Quit

In this passage we meet a mother in distress: a Canaanite woman, a Gentile, considered outside the covenant. She had no natural claim to Jesus, no entitlement, and no social advantage. Yet she carried a burden that could not be ignored: her daughter was severely oppressed by the devil. Instead of resigning herself to her situation, she took a bold step and went directly to Jesus.

Silence

Her journey was not smooth. At first, Jesus did not answer her a word.

Opposition

The disciples urged Jesus to send her away. She faced apparent rejection.

Persistence

She pressed in, spoke wisely, and held on until she received her answer. Jesus commended her for her great faith.

This shows a hard truth: faith that changes a family's story is not casual. It is **persistent, focused, and refuses to give up**, even when everything pushes back.

III Discussion Questions

1. The woman went to Jesus despite being a Gentile with no rights. What "disqualifications" (background, past, family issues) are you allowing to limit your faith?
2. Jesus was silent at first. What does God's silence reveal about your level of faith and persistence?
3. The disciples tried to send her away. What external or internal voices are discouraging you from pressing in spiritually?
4. The woman refused to stop until she got an answer. What does, or would, practical persistence in faith look like for you this week?

MEMORY VERSE

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV)

✷ ACTION POINT

Identify one serious family matter and deliberately stand in the gap. Pray consistently (morning, afternoon, and night), and refuse to stop because of delay or discouragement.

Conclusion

The Canaanite woman did not allow her background, the silence of Jesus, or the pressure from others to stop her. She stayed focused, persistent, and intentional, and that is what changed her family's story. Her daughter's deliverance was not accidental; it was the result of faith that refused to quit.

Your faith will be tested through delay, silence, and opposition. But if you hold your ground, remain consistent, and keep your focus on Christ, you position yourself for divine intervention. A family's story does not change by chance; it changes when someone decides to stand in faith and not back down.