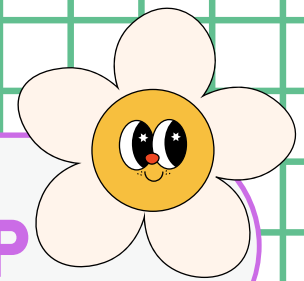




JUNE 2024



CHODAE COMMUNITY CHURCH

# SEED FAMILY WORSHIP

Connecting Parent and Child Generation through a Spiritual Conversation

## WHEN IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND

READ MATTHEW 15:21-28

...“WOMAN, YOU HAVE GREAT FAITH! YOU WILL BE GIVEN WHAT YOU ARE ASKING FOR.” AND HER DAUGHTER WAS HEALED AT THAT MOMENT. (MATTHEW 15:28B)

## FAMILY ACTIVITY "BENDING PRIDE"

**Prepare: thin and long wooden coffee stirrers (available at dollar store), lighter or candle**

1. Prepare few wooden sticks by soaking in water for more than 30 minutes. Save dry wooden stick that was not soaked in water and show how it breaks if you bend it.
2. Then, show the stick in water to people and say, "this stick has been in this water for a long time. How would you feel if you have to be stuck in water for such a long time?" (Ex. suffocated, hard to breathe, terrified)
3. Take the stick out of water and put it over the fire using the lighter. Say, "Now that it is taken out of the water finally but is put over fire. What would it feel like?" (Ex. hot, painful, exhausted from too much pain)
4. Say, "This is how the woman and her daughter felt in today's passage felt."
5. Now, try bending the stick and feel how soft it became. Something that was impossible was done. Try creating heart using two bent sticks. Explain, "water and fire made the stick so When the woman humbly bent down and accepted Jesus' sayings, she experienced a miracle. When we are made humble, we can truly love Jesus!"

In today's story, a desperate woman from Canaan comes out. She is so desperate because of so much pain in her life. This pain was caused by her daughter, who was possessed by demon. Our immediate expectation is that Lord Jesus will have mercy upon her and heal her daughter right away, but instead, Jesus does the unthinkable. Jesus rejected the woman three times. First, Jesus simply ignored the woman's cry by keeping silent. The second time, Jesus spoke, "I was sent only to the people of Israel. They are like lost sheep." To this Jesus meant, Jesus was not willing to help her because she was an outsider, not a Jewish. The third time Jesus said, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." Now this was pure mean!

But the woman's reaction was surprising. She did not give up nor she got angry at Jesus. She simply bent herself down even lower before the Lord by saying, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their owner's table." Then Jesus called her the woman of great faith. She was finally given what she asked for, and her daughter was healed instantly.

In other stories of healing and miracles Jesus performs in the Bible, Jesus usually healed people right away without such harsh sayings. But in today's story, Jesus had a specific purpose. It almost seems that Jesus was very intentional to humiliate the woman. But we also know that 'humiliation' wasn't the ultimate goal Jesus was reaching. We discover Jesus mentioning her as the woman of great faith. Jesus' intention was to draw out a great faith out of her. But in order to draw a great faith, 'humiliation' was necessary. The process of being humiliated was as if it was a necessary step for the faith to grow. We also recognize the fruit of the faith. As a result of great faith, the woman was finally granted what she asked for, the healing of her daughter. A miracle indeed happened. This resonates Jesus' own story of humiliation and death upon the cross. He humbled himself down to save us and the greatest miracle happened, a salvation.

At times, God leads us to places of humiliation and a pain that is beyond our understanding. We let God know what we need in our lives millions of times by crying out to him, asking him for help and by desperately kneeling down before Him. Yet, God still seems silent, harsh and mean. God has an intention and goal. He is growing our faith. He is firm with his ways of bending and stretching us so that we will expand and grow, be soft and tender so that He could shape us according to His purpose. He is working.



Shape the stick like the picture. Then hold it over the fire for few seconds. Repeat. Bring the two bent sticks together to form heart.

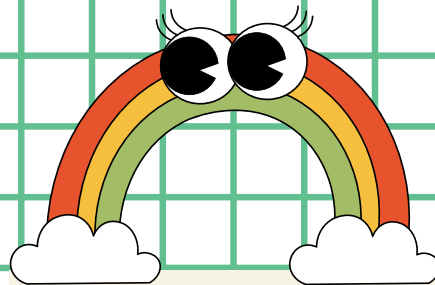
## TALK



1. When you start understanding what you did not know before, how does it feel? (Ex. language, complex ending of a movie, a person who is difficult, etc)
2. Try summarizing what you learnt today in one sentence/phrase.
3. Share prayer topics and pray for one another.

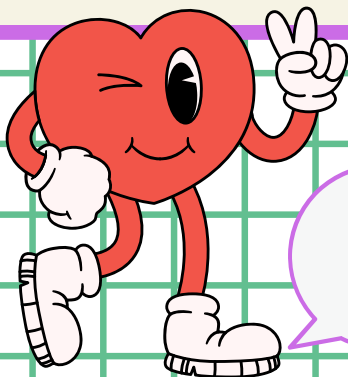
## CONCLUSION

It is honestly so very hard when we are right in the middle of a pain or a suffering that does not seem like it will ever end. Sometimes, we feel so desperate beyond our imagination. And the ways God handles us feel too painful than loving and caring. Even as a parent ourselves, there are times when we have to be firm in order to make things right with our children. God is somehow teaching us something so important through a journey that is difficult to understand. We don't always have to know it all, and sometimes it is enough to just hold on to God through the time. When we bend ourselves before God and never let go of Him, God will eventually come through and say, "You have a great faith, you will be given what you are asking for." Just stay put.



## ENDING PRAYER

Dear God, help us to hold on to You even when it is hard to understand. Thank you for doing what you do in this time. You are shaping and molding us through a humbling journey. You have humbled yourself to the cross and saved us all. Help us know You understand our pain. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.



Seed Worship Training meeting takes place every last Sunday of the Month after 3rd Service Worship (1-1:30PM) at PJM Room, Education Building (Snack provided). All of our curriculum and video resources can be downloaded at Chodae Church website!