



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 2 WEEK 8

07 June 2018

A body of heroes – space for everyone

'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

Galatians 3:28 (NIV)

Icebreaker

Our names are part of our history. Do you know what your name means? Is there a story behind your name?

Introduction

Read Matthew 15:21-28. Jesus has an interesting interaction with a Canaanite woman. Women were not considered equal in ancient cultures, and it would have been risky for her to publicly confront Jesus as she did. On top of that, the Canaanites were historically enemies of Israel. In a remarkable response, Jesus transcended these cultural and institutional barriers. He affirms her – someone understood what it was to be excluded from the covenant promises of God – as a woman of great faith. He allows her persistent pleas to move him into action, and she gets her miracle. What an impact that must have made on the crowds around Jesus.

Discussion

- What stands out to you from the passage?
- Have you ever felt excluded or alone in a crowd? Can you describe what that felt like?
- We understand from scripture (as in Galatians 3:28), that our social and cultural distinctions are not pertinent in God's kingdom. We are all welcome and equally loved. And, like Jesus, we can reach beyond the things that separate us from others. How can we apply the fruits of the Spirit to reach out to others who feel excluded?
- The gospel transforms us as individuals, but is also powerful enough to transform society. How do you experience God challenging the way you view or understand the world?

Prayer

- Share with the group if there is an area in your life in which you would like prayer. Perhaps people feel excluded in some area of their lives? If so, pray for them.
- Pray together for God's transformative work in our society.