

Listen and understand

JESUS MEETS WITH THE PHARISEES AND THEN A

CANAANITE WOMAN MATTHEW 15.(10-20), 21-28 • 16-22 AUGUST

Summer Club
ROOTS

Read the [Introduction for leaders](#), or [Introduction for parents and carers](#) for guidance on how to use these ideas.

You will need these items: snacks, drinks, playing cards; video clip '[The art of misdirection](#)' and the equipment to play it; template below printed onto card (or use card and draw your own), scissors, split pins felt tip pens; cardboard tubes, pens, paper; song at <https://sameboatmusic.com/pages/roots> and a phone/tablet to play it on, Children's Sheet: www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20740/16-aug-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf, envelopes.

Part 1

Pointless?

Serve snacks and drinks but also challenge everyone to build a house of playing cards. Is anyone distracted from the food by this pointless task?

The art of misdirection

Show the clip '[The art of misdirection](#)'. Apollo Robins demonstrates what misdirection means and how it can be used to 'steal your attention'. Talk together: do you ever find that your attention is 'stolen' by things that don't really matter? Can you think of any examples?

A prayer for this week

God of all,
as we go into the week ahead,
help us to keep our eyes on you and the things you want us to do,
so that we do not become distracted by the things that draw us away from you.

Amen.

Part 2

Can you hear me?

Ask someone to read out the story while everyone else make as much noise as they can. Ask how clearly they were able to hear the reader with so much distraction. Ask the same person to read the passage again, this time without distraction, and discuss how that felt.

Jesus was teaching the crowds when he explained about what makes a person pure. 'It's not about what goes into your mouth,' he said, talking about what you eat. What stops you from being pure is if bad things come out of your mouth.' Some people listening disagreed and the disciples told Jesus. He answered, 'Any plant that has not been planted by God will be uprooted. These people are like the blind leading the blind. If they do not understand, how can they help others to do so?'

Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Explain this to us.' Jesus said, 'Do you still not understand? Whatever goes into your mouth goes into your stomach and eventually into the sewer. But things that come out from your mouth come from the heart, so if they are bad, this means the very heart of you is also bad.'

Jesus went on to another place, a foreign place called Tyre and Sidon. A woman from that place, a foreigner, came out into the street and started shouting. 'I need your help, Lord!' she called. 'Son of David, help me. My daughter is very ill.'

She shouted as loud as she could to get their attention, but Jesus didn't answer her at all.

His disciples tried to persuade him: 'Send her away. She keeps on shouting at us.' Jesus seemed to agree with them.

He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.'

But the woman didn't give up. She came right up to them and knelt before Jesus, saying, 'Lord, help me.' Then Jesus said to her, 'It's not fair to take what was meant for the children, their food, and throw it to the dogs.'



But she replied, 'Well, yes, Lord, but even the dogs get something. They eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table.'

Jesus looked straight at the woman and answered, 'Woman, you have great faith! What you want most will happen.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Talk together

- What's the kindest thing someone has said to you recently?
- How important are the words we use, and why?
- Who are 'outsiders' today, and how can we include them more?

A prayer for ourselves

We are here to listen, God,

Place hands behind ears.

we are here to understand.

Place finger on head.

Help us not to be distracted.

Place hands over ears.

Amen.

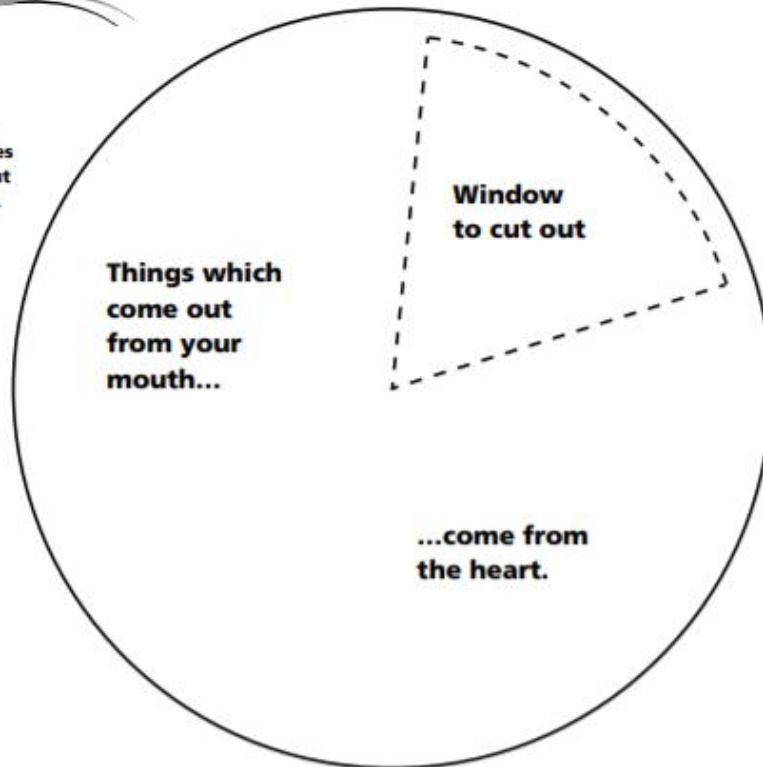
Part 3

Heart and mouth pinwheels

Using the template below, help each person to cut away the window from the top circle, and fit the top circle on top of the bottom circle. Then help them to make a small hole in the centre (as marked) and put a split pin through. Encourage everyone to decorate both their circles and personalise them using felt tip pens. When everyone has finished, they can spin their wheels to reveal the images and read the verse aloud together.



Print copies of the two circle templates on thin card and cut them out carefully.



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Are you listening?

Make 'listening tubes' from cardboard tubes. Encourage everyone to decorate their tubes with felt tip pens (and other craft materials if you have them) and then use them to listen to others.

A prayer for forgiveness

Lord Jesus,
we don't always follow you
as closely as we should.
Sometimes we walk far away
and get distracted by things
that aren't of you.
We are sorry, Lord.
Amen.

Part 4

Sing

Learn and sing the song 'Keeper of my heart' from Same Boat Music:
<https://sameboatmusic.com/pages/roots>.

Listen and understand

Ask everyone to think of people they know and pick out a few who have obvious differences, e.g. a friend from a different country, someone who uses a walking stick. Talk about similarities and differences, and what we might learn by putting ourselves in each person's position, e.g. learning a new language, what it's like to listen and understand someone with a different perspective on life, showing patience with disability.

Optional: Draw a picture or write a prayer to say thank you to God for making people so diverse and that there is so much we can learn from one another.

Part 5

Secret envelope

You will need: pens, paper and envelopes, one of each per person.
Invite everyone to think about people they could be nicer to, or make an effort to include more, then write their names on pieces of paper. Explain that they don't need to show anybody. Ask everyone to seal the names in their envelopes and write their own names on the front. They keep them sealed or open and pray over the names, thinking about how they might make an effort to be kinder.

Life from a different angle

Look at the picture together and discuss the following question:



When have you ever experienced life from the viewpoint of an outsider?

Take it further

Use the Children's Sheet to recap what you have been thinking about and do the activities together. Spend some extra time on the 'Family time' section: www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20740/16-aug-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf