

# Connecting Church and Home

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Quarter 2, Week 7 :: **The Servant of All People**

**Treasure Story:** Mark 7:14-30

How many people have you met in your lifetime who believe that they are good because of their many good deeds? If we are honest with ourselves, many of us believe that as well. However, Jesus says it's not about how good you seem on the outside; it's what flows from your heart that matters.

## Connect

"Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, 'Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.' Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long."  
– A.W. Tozer

It does not matter how many good deeds we do or how many laws we keep—what matters is whether our hearts have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Jesus taught the Gentile woman in today's Treasure Story that it's not your ethnic background but your faith in Him that makes you a part of His family. Use the following activities to reinforce Jesus' message of grace:

- **Showing Grace:** Jesus showed us grace by saving us from our sinful hearts. We deserved death, but in His mercy He saved us. Next time a family member or a friend wrongs you or does something that deserves to be punished, find a way to show them grace while helping them to confess and repent of their sin.
- **Silly Rules:** As a family, talk about some of the silly rules you have experienced or heard of. It could be something as silly as "No Shirt, No Shoes, No Service" or "No Children Without Their Parents." As you discuss these rules, talk about some of the laws that the Pharisees were trying to live by. Emphasize that it's not about keeping rules, but it's our faith in Christ that makes us right with God.

## My Mission As Parent

- How do you respond to your children's disobedience? Many times as parents we put unrealistic rules into place. Pray and search deep into your hearts if you have responded in an ungracious way toward your children in the past and pray for opportunities to be more gracious moving forward.
- Just as the Pharisees thought it was about keeping rules or doing good to earn God's salvation, many times we do the same thing. But we cannot do enough good to earn salvation; it is only through Christ and His sacrifice for us can we be saved. Teach your children this truth by living in such a way that it's obvious that you rely on the grace of God for salvation.

## Prayer Points

- Pray that we constantly remember that we cannot save ourselves.
- Pray for those who try hard to earn God's salvation in vain. Pray that they would realize that it's all about Jesus and not about them.
- Praise God for sending Jesus to be our salvation and doing for us what we could never have done for ourselves.