

# 5 First Jew, then Gentile

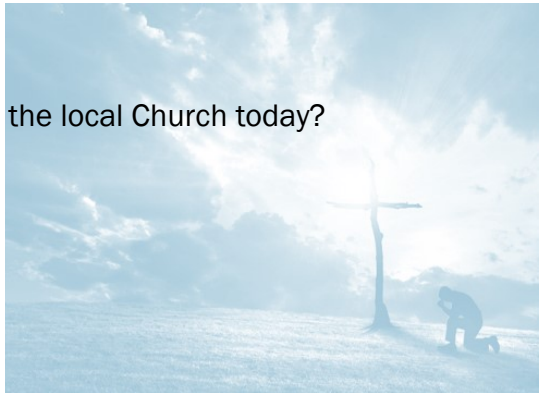
Isaiah 49:1-6; Matthew 15:21-28 Luke 24:46-47

## Key verse

“He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Lk. 24:46-47 NIV)

## Getting started

Discuss: What is God’s purpose for the local Church today?



## Going deeper

### Read Isaiah 49:1-6

- 1) Investigate: If Jesus proves to be the servant described here, what do we learn about ‘God the Father’ in these verses?

Reflect: How is this an encouragement to us in our task to reach the lost?

- 2) Why do you think the sequence of God’s salvation plan for our world is Jews first then Gentiles?

### Read Matthew 15:21-28

- 3) Briefly run your eyes over the first half of chapter 15. What was so wrong with the way people were relating both to God and each other?
- 4) Gentiles were considered defiled and unclean. Why might Matthew, writing to Jewish readers, have placed this story of the Canaanite woman immediately after this rebuke?
- 5) What attitude do we see in the disciples towards this woman and her plight?

Helpful hint: Jews often referred to Gentiles as dogs (kuon). But the term for dog that Jesus uses is the diminutive form (kunarion) meaning “dogs permitted in the house”.

- 6) Even though both Jesus and the woman acknowledge Jesus’ priority in reaching the lost sheep of Israel, how does the woman’s response in verse 27 demonstrate that she truly belongs in God’s house and among God’s people?



## Taking it home

In our key verse and from what we’ve seen throughout our study, what response is God looking for *in our own hearts* and also as we share the good news of Jesus with people of all nations around us?

Discuss & **Pray** through the implications of this study for our lives.