



**December 7, 2023**

### **Social Time**

### **Thanks to those who provided Treats**

### **Music – Led by Lisa Schlotterback**

- ELW 242 - Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn
- ELW 239 - Hark the Glad Sound
- ELW 266 - All Earth is Hopeful

### **Prayer Requests & Update Prayer List**

### **Opening Prayer**

### **A Hopeful Word**

- Scripture Reading – Mark 7:24-37 – Sandra LaCroix
- Character – The Mother Who Begged Jesus to Heal Her Daughter – Tonya Cox

### **Discussion**

1. Have you had the experience of a child being terribly ill?
  - What was that like for you?
2. What barriers would you be willing to cross to bring healing for one you loved?
3. How do the “labels” we give to people’s conditions impact the way the people are perceived or treated by others? (example – Mentally ill, addicted, depressed)
4. What do you think of Jesus’ initial response to her request to heal her daughter?
  - Why do you think he responded this way?
5. After being treated that way by Jesus, what do you think made this woman persist in her request for healing?
  - If you were her, would you have believed Jesus when he then told her that her daughter was healed?
  - What does this woman’s example have to teach us about persistence in prayer?
6. Where does God meet us when we come to him with desperate situations?
7. The woman concluded that our struggles in life don’t have the last word, but that God does. Has that been true for you?
  - Where have you experienced God’s promises during times of trouble?

8. In our story, the woman quotes the following passage from Isaiah:

**Isaiah 43:1-3 & 5**

*But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ...Do not fear, for I am with you*

How does this passage of promise speak to you?

**Bible Study Business**

**Birthdays**

**Closing Prayer – Lord’s Prayer**