LESSON 21

The Faith of a Foreigner



Aim: **To teach the children that Jesus loves people from all tribes and races. He wants us all to put our trust in him and be delivered from the power of evil.**

Scripture Reading: **Mark 7:25-30**

Memory Verse: **John 10:16**
"I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen … They too will listen to my voice …"

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

What happens when someone from another tribe comes and lives in the compound next to yours? They speak a different language, they eat different food or prepare it differently, they have different customs. We often mistrust them because we don't know or understand them.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. A foreign woman once came to see Jesus. She was not a Jew. The Jews called everyone who did not belong to their nation a Gentile.
   The woman was very worried, as her daughter was possessed by an evil spirit. She pleaded with Jesus to help her (Mk 7:25-26).
2. Jesus answered her request with a story. **Read 7:27 to the class.** What Jesus meant was that he had come to help the Jews (the children in the story). What was theirs could not be given to others (the dogs in the story; Jews often called people from other nations dogs, because they looked down on them).
   If he helped foreigners before helping the Jews, Jesus was saying, it would be like feeding the dogs before the children!
3. But the woman would not be put off that easily. "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs" (7:28).
   Show Picture 21. Notice the dog in the picture? The man on the left probably is the owner of the house where Jesus was staying (7:24).
4. Jesus rewarded this foreign woman's faith and trust in him. He told her she would find her little daughter healed when she arrived back home (7:29-30).

Jesus loves people from all tribes and nations. He wants everybody in the whole world to have faith in him and be delivered from the power of evil.

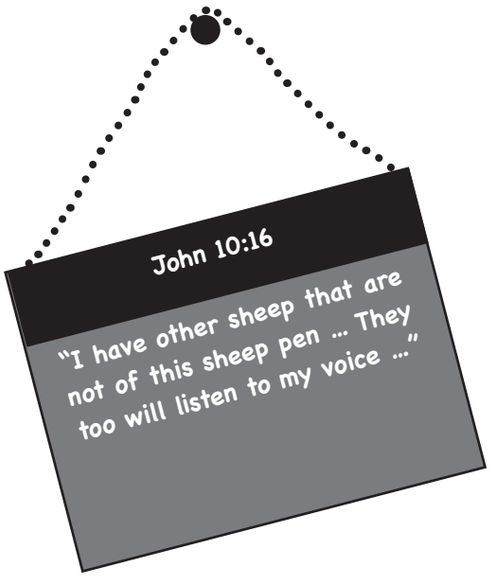
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Instil the Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

We know Jesus loves people from all the tribes in the world. Therefore, how should we treat people from another tribe who come to live near us? **Help the class think of different ways that will help foreigners be part of the community.** When we share Jesus' love with others, we are doing God's work.



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