

## **OPENING QUESTION**

Share about a time when you were most desperate for help. What did you do? How was your situation resolved?

## **READ TOGETHER**

### **Mark 7:24-30**

**Note:** In verse 24, we read that Jesus takes His disciples north to a city on the northwest coast called Tyre. If you can, use the Bible map in the back of someone's Bible or a smart phone to see where Tyre is located. This location is important to the story.

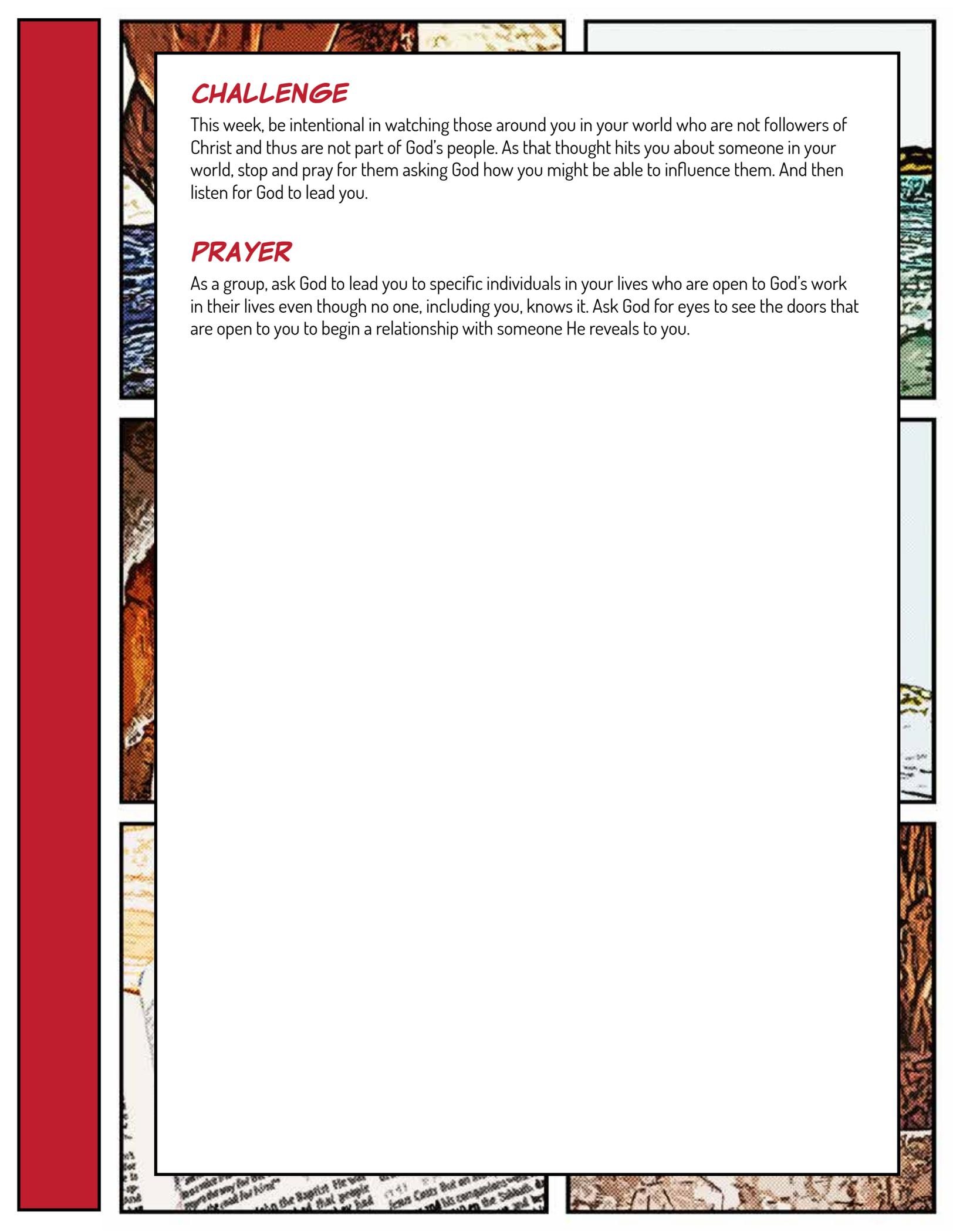
## **BIG IDEA**

**Jesus loves all people - everyone.**

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What do we know about the woman in this story from verses 25-26?
2. Why do you think this woman was so desperate to see Jesus that she would basically break into a house to see Him?
3. This story takes place in Tyre, outside Jewish territory – the territory of the people of God. This woman is not a Jew, but a Gentile whom historically the Jews hated in Jesus' day. Why does Jesus answer her with what seem to be harsh words? (This may be the most difficult to understand saying of Jesus. It could be that He was merely testing her faith. Let's not let His reference to "dogs" blind us to the fact that He did show care to her by granting her request.)
4. What do His metaphors of "children" and "dogs" refer to? It was common for Jews to refer to Gentiles as "dogs". (remember, as one author put it, that Jesus "was not in any sense recognizing this description as accurate. He desired to see whether the woman was ready to take such a lowly position in order to receive a healing.")
5. Read Isaiah 49:6; Isaiah 56:3; Isaiah 60:1-3; Jeremiah 16:19-21 and Zechariah 2:11. What do these verses teach us about who God loves and has planned salvation for?
6. Read John 3:16-17: Who does God want to save?
7. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6: What do these verses teach us about how God looks at the human race?
8. In your life who do you have a hard time ever imagining coming to Christ or being part of life in heaven with you? Why?

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



## **CHALLENGE**

This week, be intentional in watching those around you in your world who are not followers of Christ and thus are not part of God's people. As that thought hits you about someone in your world, stop and pray for them asking God how you might be able to influence them. And then listen for God to lead you.

## **PRAYER**

As a group, ask God to lead you to specific individuals in your lives who are open to God's work in their lives even though no one, including you, knows it. Ask God for eyes to see the doors that are open to you to begin a relationship with someone He reveals to you.