

Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD



for Children

Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Autumn 2016

Be Opened! Ephphatha!

Mark 7

DARKNESS LAY HEAVY ON TYRE AND SIDON, AND THE DECAPOLIS. (See Page 4 for information on these places.) Many ungodly Gentile people lived there, but Jesus loved them all. He brought hope and healing to people in both areas.

JESUS WENT INTO A HOUSE NEAR TYRE AND SIDON. He didn't want anyone to know that He was there, but Jesus couldn't be hidden. A Greek woman—a Phoenician woman from Syria—had heard about Jesus, and she came to find Him. The people of Israel were normally not friendly with the Greeks, or with people from Tyre and Sidon, so she may not have expected a warm welcome from Jesus.



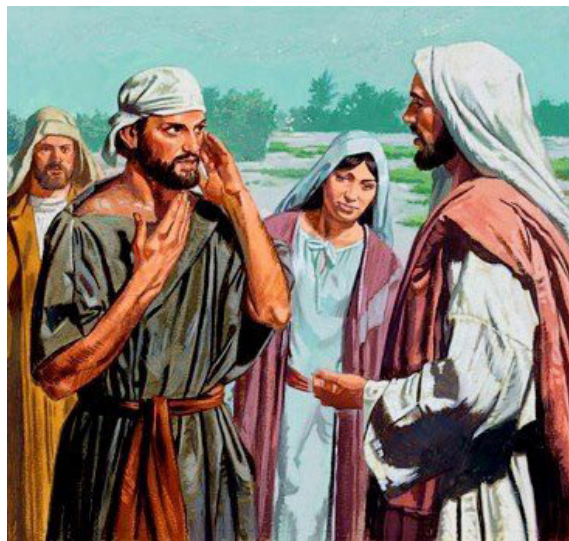
The woman was desperate, though, and she came into the house and fell at Jesus' feet. She begged Jesus to heal her young daughter who was possessed by a demon.

Jesus said, "Let the children be filled first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

The woman answered, *Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.* (Mark 7:28)

Jesus said to the woman, "Because of this statement, you can go on your way. The demon has gone out of your daughter." When the woman came to her house, she found the demon had gone away, and her daughter was lying in bed.

THEN JESUS TRAVELED TO THE DECAPOLIS. A man who was deaf and who couldn't speak clearly was brought to Jesus. Those who brought the deaf man begged Jesus to touch him, to lay His hands on him.



Jesus took the man alone away from the crowd, and put His fingers into his ears. Then Jesus spit and touched his tongue. Looking up to heaven, Jesus gave a sigh and said,

"Ephphatha!"

which means, "Be opened!" Immediately the deaf man's ears were opened, and he could hear. His tongue was set free, and he could speak clearly.

Jesus commanded the people to tell no one about it, but the more He commanded them, the more they talked. They spread the news of the miracle everywhere, and all the people were astonished beyond measure, saying, "Jesus has done all things well! He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

Toddlers

Through Three Years

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

This song is to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

**I am Jesus' little lamb,
Little lamb, little lamb;
I am Jesus' little lamb;
He washed me white as snow.**

Jesus loves you! He is
the Good Shepherd
and you are His sheep.

Jesus came to earth to
die on the cross for
your sins.

He will take care of
you every day. He has
given you life, and He
will bring you to
heaven to live with
Him forever.

Believe in Him!



Tots

Four-Six Years

A branch cannot live without being connected to a vine or tree. If a branch is broken off from the tree, it will die, it will not bloom, and it will not bear fruit. The gardener trims the branches so that they will be healthy and have lots of fruit.

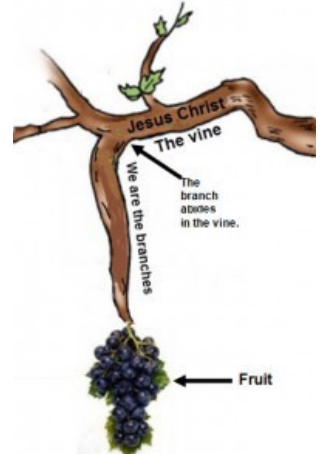
Vine and Branches

Jesus said that He is the Vine and we are the branches. God the Father is the Gardener who takes good care of the little branches. God trims pieces of our branches that are too long or unhealthy.

God takes care of us. He sent Jesus to shed his blood for the sin of the whole world. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, and He will live forever.

We are connected to Jesus by faith. We trust Him to save us. We trust Him for the daily bread that keeps our bodies alive. We trust Him for His Word, the food that keeps our spirits alive. If we are in Jesus, we will bear fruit to God's glory. Without Jesus, we can't do anything.

We (the branches) do not bring life and food to the True Vine (Jesus), but the True Vine (Jesus) brings life to us (the branches). We live in Him, and He lives in us.



Your family tree is made up of your parents and grandparents, and, even farther back, your great-grandparents.

Abram was chosen by God to begin a family tree that would impact the world forever. Later, God changed Abram's name to Abraham.

Jesus' Family Tree

Abraham had a son named Isaac, and Isaac had a son named Jacob. After Jacob wrestled with an angel, his name was changed to Israel. Jacob's sons and grandsons became the twelve tribes of Israel. They were God's chosen people.

Jesus came from Abraham's family tree, and there were other "famous" people from the Old Testament in it. Judah was the son of Israel, and from Judah came Boaz who married Ruth, whose story is in the Bible book of Ruth. Their son was Obed, the father of Jesse, who was the father of David. David the shepherd boy killed Goliath the giant, and then grew up to be the king of Israel. King David's son was King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived. Years later, Josiah was born, and he became the king of Israel when he was only eight years old!

More years later, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. God sent His Son Jesus through the family tree of Abraham to change the world forever. Jesus died for the sin of the whole world, and He was raised again from the dead. Jesus lives forevermore!



Jacob Wrestling with the Angel Gustave Doré

Tweens

Eleven-Twelve Years

Are you a Hebrew person? If so, you are descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who was later named Israel.

Or you may be of Scandinavian descent. Or Asian, or African, or Hispanic, or Native American. None of these are Hebrew and none of them are descendants of Israel. If you are not descended from Israel, then you are a Gentile.



Jews and Gentiles: All God's People

When Jesus talked to the Syrophenician woman, He said that He was only sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Does that mean that Jesus wasn't sent for you unless you're of Jewish descent? Does that mean that you have no hope of salvation? No, Jesus didn't mean that at all.

Jesus said: *Let the children first be filled...*

Mark 7:27

Notice that Jesus said the children should be filled FIRST. The plan of salvation was carried out through Israel first. God chose Abraham, and through him, the Jewish people were adopted. They were given the covenants, the Law, the worship, the promises. Jesus was born of the tribe of Judah, who was descended from Jacob (Israel). The Scripture says that Jesus came to His own (people) but His own (people) didn't receive Him, and Jesus was delivered to death.

But after His resurrection, Jesus sent His disciples out to preach the Gospel to all people, both Jews and Gentiles. He told them to go and make disciples of ALL NATIONS; this command is called the Great Commission. Jesus told them they would witness of Him in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria and to the farthest parts of the earth.

If you are a Hebrew Christian, you are descended from Israel and you believe in Jesus as the Messiah. If you are a Gentile Christian, you have received the benefit of the Great Commission, and you believe in Jesus as the Messiah. One of Jesus' disciples taught someone, who taught someone else, all the way to the person who witnessed about Jesus to you.

The Apostle Paul says Jews and Gentiles are no different: **For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek (Gentile): for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Romans 10:12-13

In the conversation between Jesus and the woman whose daughter was possessed by a demon, both Matthew and Mark write that Jesus said: "It is not fitting to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

Calling a person a "dog" is a very derogatory term today. Did Jesus really call the Syrophenician woman a DOG?! Does that sound unkind? Does that sound like our loving, merciful Master and Savior?

A Dog of a Different Color

There are two different words for "dog" in the Bible. According to Strong's Concordance: **kuón** is a dog, universally despised in the East **kunarion** is a little dog, a house dog

One is a wild scavenger, the other is a house pet.

Some Jews called non-Jewish people "dogs." Many Israelites of the day treated Gentiles poorly, like wild, unclean, heathen scavengers.

Jesus used the term for a little house pet. Jesus treated non-Jewish people with respect, with compassion, with love and grace.

Jesus told the woman: "It is not fitting to take the children's bread and throw it to the (little pet) dogs."

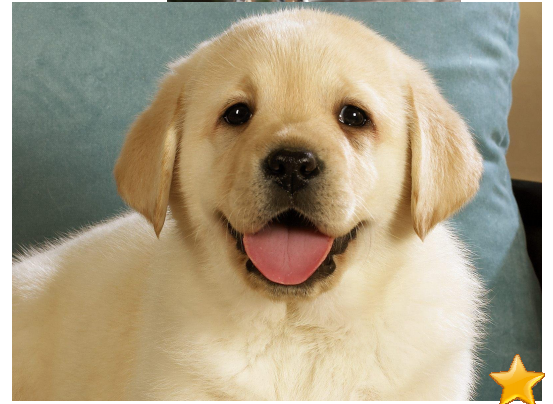
Matthew writes that the woman's responded: **Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.**

Matthew 15:27

Little pet dogs were fed scraps and tidbits from their masters' table. The woman knew that Jesus had come to the Jewish people, but she begged to be thrown a table scrap, a little tidbit of grace from the Merciful Master. Though He had come to His own people, she begged that she could be treated like a beloved family pet who is given a crumb from the master's table.

Jesus was not speaking in an unkind way to the woman, and He even went on to commend her for her faith. Jesus replied, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Teens



Who's Who and Where

TYRE AND SIDON WERE PORT CITIES ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

They were in the northern part of the Promised Land,* and they were under the rule and protection of the Roman Empire* and most of the people who lived there were Gentile* people.

THE DECAPOLIS WAS A GROUP OF TEN CITY-STATES also under Roman rule and protection, and also mostly inhabited by Gentiles. The city-states were able to make their own money and to make their own rules for the most part.

The Roman Empire wanted to make itself bigger and stronger. The emperor wanted more power, more lands to rule, and more people to serve him. He set himself up as the protector and defender of the people, and he promised peace and safety to those who trusted in him. The emperor wanted the influence of Rome to spread to all the areas around him. He wanted to influence architecture, government, religion, and every area of life. The emperor was even worshiped as a god!

The Gentiles did not worship the true God of Israel or follow His Law. They worshiped many different false gods. Some worshiped Greek and Roman idols* in pagan* temples. They offered sacrifices to wood and stone false gods, and they bowed down before statues and carved images. Nature and the things in nature were also common objects of Gentile worship. Some worshiped at the altar of knowledge and learning, and these false gods consumed their time as they always wanted to hear the next new thing. Some of them revered the human form, and the creature was worshiped instead of the Creator. And of course, Gentiles have the same human nature as all people, and some worshiped themselves through pride and selfishness.

Jerusalem is the holy city and capital of Israel. The Hebrew* people worshiped the one true God, the Creator of heaven and earth. They followed His Law and offered sacrifices and incense on the altar in the temple. King Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem about 800 BC*, and it was destroyed about 400 BC. Herod built the second temple, and it was destroyed in 70 AD*. The entire city of Jerusalem was destroyed in that First Jewish*-Roman war, and it had to be rebuilt.

Definitions:

- * **AD:** Anno Domini which means “in the year of our Lord;” years after Jesus was born
- * **BC:** “Before Christ;” years before Jesus was born
- * **Gentile:** not Jewish; not of the children of Israel
- * **Idol:** any false god; sometimes a statue or carved figure of wood or stone
- * **Hebrew:** a descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (later named Israel); God’s chosen people
- * **Jew/Jewish:** another name for Hebrew
- * **Mosque:** Muslim temple
- * **Pagan:** a person who does not worship the one true God; a pagan may worship many different gods, or nature, or even humans
- * **Promised Land:** land given to the children of Israel for an inheritance; each of the 12 tribes received their specific portion
- * **Roman Empire:** huge area ruled by an emperor who was celebrated as a god; Rome promised the people peace and security

Distances:

- * **Tyre to Sidon:** about 20 miles
- * **Tyre to Jerusalem:** about 100 miles
- * **Tyre to Hippos in the Decapolis:** about 50 miles



Cryptogram

What did the Syrophenician woman say to Jesus? Mark 7:28

Fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below the blanks to solve the puzzle. L and U are done for you.

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | 17 | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | |

20 18 3 , L : 20 18 4 4 11 18 12 6 9 3 U
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 4 11 18 L 18 15 4 6 25 4 11 18 5 11 14 17 12 21 18 7 ' 3
U
 5 21 2 23 24 3

Do You Remember?

1. Where did Jesus heal the Syrophenician woman's daughter?
2. Whose name was changed to Israel?
3. What does BC stand for?
4. Where did Jesus heal the deaf mute man?
5. Who wrestled with an angel?
6. How many city-states were in the Decapolis?
7. What does *Ephphatha* mean?
8. What is the capital of Israel?

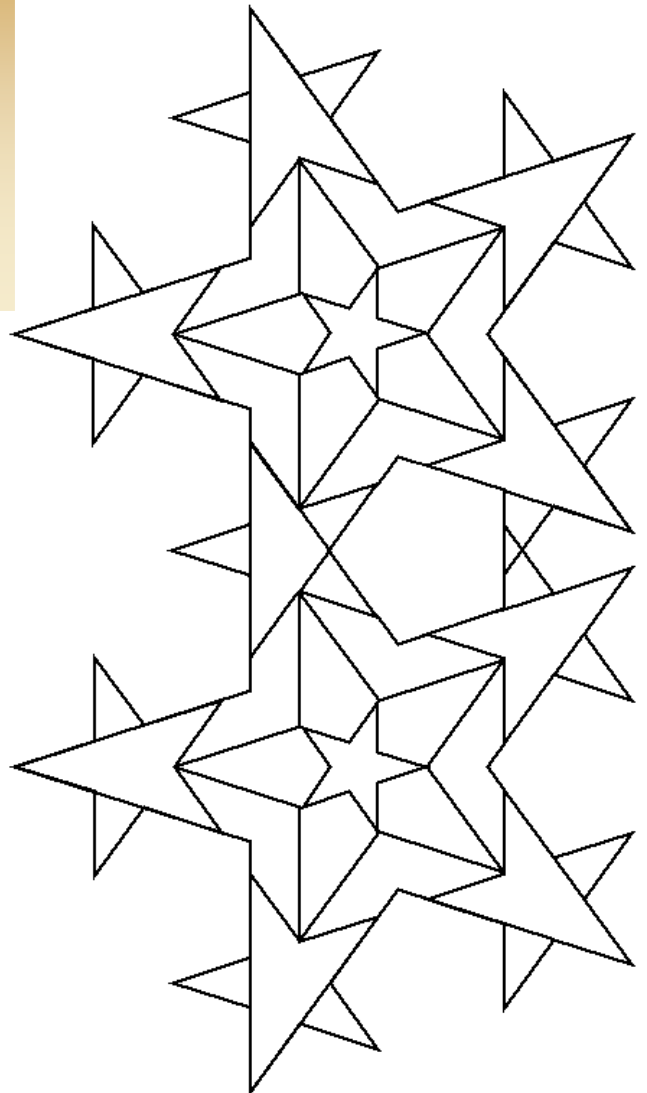
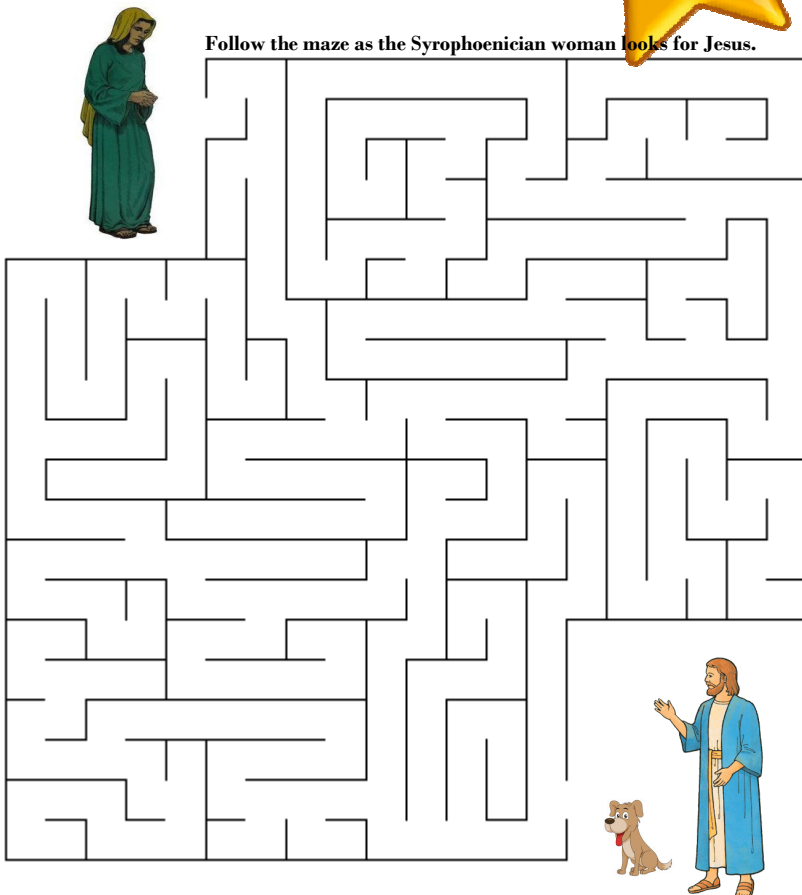
How many stars are in this magazine?

Ephphatha!

Puzzle Fun

Answer Key: page 7

Follow the maze as the Syrophenician woman looks for Jesus.



Can you find 15 five-pointed stars in the picture above?

Color them so you don't lose count.

When you have found all the stars, try counting the triangles!



A Picture to Color

The Birds Upon the Treetops

The birds up - on the tree tops sing their song; The
 an - gels chant their cho - rus all day long; The
 flow - ers in the gar - den blend their hue, So
 why shouldn't I, why shouldn't you praise Him too?

Chords: C, Dm, G⁷, C, G, C, C⁷, F, Dm, C/G, Am, G⁷, C

Puzzle Answer Key

Do You Remember?

1. Tyre and Sidon
2. Jacob
3. Before Christ
4. The Decapolis
5. Jacob
6. Ten
7. Be opened
8. Jerusalem

There are 18 gold stars in the magazine, there are 15 white stars on the puzzle page, and there are many, many stars in the picture on the back cover!

How Many?

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| 15 | 24 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 25 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 23 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 20 |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | L | M | N | O | R | S | T | U | Y |

Cryptogram Key

Holy Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

You are the eternal One who keeps Your promises and fulfills Your covenant. You are the God of the Jews and the Gentiles. Your name is holy.

Thank You for the many peoples of the world. Help us to see that all people are made in Your likeness and bear Your image, even those with whom we don't agree. Give us hearts of compassion for the less fortunate among us, and those who have spiritual, mental and physical disabilities. Let us love the people in our lives, and let us reach out to the lonely and sad people we meet.

Thank You for sending Jesus to shed His blood for the sin of the world. Bless the Hebrew and Gentile people who believe in Him. Let us trust Jesus the True Vine, and let us bear fruit to Your glory. Prune us, Father, but please be gentle and remember that we are dust. Keep us in faith unto the end.

Like the man in the Decapolis, heal us! Open our ears, Lord, to hear Your Word, and loosen our tongues to praise You!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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For Parents:

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Children sometimes make promises that they don't (or can't) keep. Parents may go back on their word, when circumstances change and suddenly a "promise" cannot be fulfilled. Our Lord doesn't renege. His promises are sure and eternal.

When Abram was about 70 years old and childless, the LORD promised him: **"I will make of you a great nation.** I will bless you and make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you, and **in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**" (Genesis 12)

Years pass, and Abram and Sarai have no child. Abram complains to God, "You have given me no child. My servant is my heir!" The word of the LORD came to Abram: "This man will not be your heir, but your own son will be your heir." He brought Abram outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars if you can! So will your descendants be!" Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. The LORD made a covenant with Abram, **establishing the Promised Land as an inheritance to his descendants.** (Genesis 15)

More years pass, and Abram is 99 years old. Still Abram and Sarai are childless. God tells Abram, "My covenant is with you, and **you will be the father of many nations.**" Then the LORD changes Abram's name to Abraham and renews the covenant, and changes Sarai's name to Sarah. Abraham falls on his face and laughs, saying within himself, "Will a child be born to him who is a hundred years old? Will 90 year old Sarah bear a child?" (Genesis 17)

God kept His promises to Abraham:

- Sarah bore a son to Abraham in her old age.
- Abraham's descendants inherited the Promised Land.
- A great nation—MANY great nations—came from the lineage of Abraham: the Hebrew nation (through Isaac), and the Arabic nations (through Ishmael).
- All the families of the earth were blessed when Jesus, the Seed of Abraham, was sacrificed on Calvary, when His blood was shed for the sin of the world.

God always keeps His promises. All of them.

