

# 05 JESUS'S COMPASSION

**KEY TEXT: MARK 7:24-37; 8:11-21**

## CENTRAL truth

God's plan was to send Jesus for the Jews first and then the Gentiles. He never intended to leave anyone out—but His people sometimes did. Jesus's responses to the Gentile woman, the deaf and mute man, and the demanding Jewish leaders proved that **Jesus shows compassion for everyone**. However, He doesn't take orders from anyone, and He doesn't feel the need to prove Himself.

## key question

**How can Jesus's interaction with the deaf and mute man affect your willingness to let Him help you?**

Jesus met the needs of the deaf and mute man in a highly personalized and sensitive way. He proved He wasn't afraid to get personal by using His own saliva and by touching the man's tongue. He also expressed empathy for the man's condition by exhaling a sigh of compassion when He healed him. We don't have to be worried about Jesus being offended or put off by us.

## keep in mind

- Unfortunately, racism is not dead. Because it is still a hot topic, students might see Jesus's response to the Gentile woman as racist. Explain that God's plan has always been to give everyone a chance to put their faith in Jesus. He simply planned to start with the Jews, much like we might choose to start with our own families before a family across town. Point out that Jesus continually displayed willingness to interact with and minister to Gentiles.
- The role of faith in healing is often misunderstood. Some students may believe that if God doesn't heal a person, it's because that person didn't have enough faith. Others may believe they can make things happen by believing they will happen. Be sensitive when correcting these ideas. Explain that it is important to have faith in God's ability to do something, but let Him decide what's best.

## application

**How should Jesus's example influence the way we interact with people around us who are lonely or overlooked?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Jesus doesn't play favorites! He is just as willing to help the students in your group just as He is willing to help anyone else. They need to know He wants to be involved in every detail of their lives. If they let Him, He will guide them and provide for all their needs.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Make sure students understand that God cares just as much about them as anyone else. Tell them how Jesus has proven He cares about the details of your life. Encourage students to put their faith in God and trust Him to know what's best.

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