Growing FAITH at home

PROPER 15

YEAR A

Faith in Jesus is always rewarded

GrowMinistries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

www.growministries.org.au

Sunday between
August 14 and August 20

CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. Share about a time when you trusted someone to help you. Was your trust rewarded?
2. Jesus said that the Canaanite woman who came to him had "great faith" (read Matthew 15:21-28). How did she show her faith? How was her faith rewarded?

BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	**Matthew 15:21-28**	A woman's faith
M	**Genesis 45:1-15**	Joseph makes himself known
T	**Matthew 8:1-13**	Jesus heals many people
W	**Acts 14:19-28**	God opens the door to Gentiles
T	**Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**	Maintain justice
F	**Romans 11:1-32**	God saves Jews and Gentiles
S	**Psalm 67**	May God bless us still

VERSE OF THE WEEK

The Lord says, "Hold on to what is right and fair. Do what is right and good. My saving power will soon come."

ISAIAH 56:1

CREATIVE RESPONSE

The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make his house a "house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7).

Use this creative prayer idea to make your home a 'house of prayer' for others. Pass around a bag or bowl of M&Ms (or equivalent sweet) when your household gathers for prayer. Let each person take a handful, but don't let anyone eat them yet. Explain that the colour of the M&Ms will indicate the direction of your prayers. Lead your household in prayer using this guide:

- For every **red** M&M, pray for a member of your family by name.
- For every **green** M&M, pray for a friend or neighbour.
- For every **orange** M&M, pray for a teacher in your life.
- For every **yellow** M&M, pray for someone in need.
- For every **dark brown** M&M, pray for a leader in your life.
- For every **blue** M&M, pray for Christians in other places.
- For any other colour, offer a prayer of your choice!

ACTION RESPONSE

The Canaanite woman who came to Jesus for help wasn't made very welcome by his disciples (Matt 15:23).

Are newcomers welcomed at your church? What part do you play in welcoming others? Plan a way to make someone who is relatively new to your church feel more at home, or offer to serve as part of your church's greeting/welcoming ministry.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord, we give you praise and gratitude, for food and drink and family too. And also for a roof above, but most of all for your great love. Amen.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to hold on to what is fair and to do what is right and good. Amen.

BLESSING

May God show loving kindness towards you and make his face shine upon you.