

# Create



## ✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

## ✓ Breath of God

Ask someone to read Matthew 15:21-28. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: This story has many interpretations, and we can learn many valuable lessons from it. One lesson I find most interesting is the concept that even Jesus is willing to listen, grow, and be changed by everyday-kind-of people. Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman should encourage us to keep talking, keep communicating with God whether we are happy, sad, angry, or filled with doubt.

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing**, **Visual**, or **Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

## ✓ Create — Writing

Assume for a moment that you know God's point of view about an event or decision going on in your life, write a letter to God asking God to change God's mind about that issue or event. If you are not sure of God's point of view, write a letter to God stating what you want, what you feel, etc. When you finish writing, read your letter silently to God, then enter into a silent dialogue with God. Ask God to hear your words and express your gratefulness to God for hearing your concerns, thoughts, and opinions. God is listening.

## ✓ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

In this lesson, we consider the fact that Jesus is willing to grow and change his mind about certain things. For this piece of visual art, allow yourself to

grow and change your mind about your image of God. On canvas, create as many images of God as you can. Do not limit yourself to human forms; instead, open your mind and allow your paintbrush or pencil to know no limits. When you are finished creating, name your work.

## ✓ Create — Outside the Box

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Of all people, Jesus perhaps never considered the Canaanite woman asking or needing his help. Think of those in your community, school, workplace who are much different than you. Someone so different and out of your comfort zone, you have a hard time envisioning ever asking them for advice or help. Using the story board technique, create a situation in which you need to ask for "that someone's" help. When you are finished, share your storyboard with a partner in the room. Brainstorm with your partner how you might grow and be changed by dialogue with someone not like you. (For a great storyboard template see the link on this session's webpage).

## ✓ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

## ✓ Close

Offer a prayer thanking God for listening to you, more specifically hearing you, and considering you a co-creator in this journey we call life.

*(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).*

by Carra Greer Hughes