

## Series: Beyond Awkward

### Scripture and Background Information for September 6-12.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll be looking at **Mark 7:24-30**. Mark, the writer of the Gospel, designed his Gospel to point to Jesus as the Messiah. Mark recalls stories of Jesus doing amazing things, things only God can do. Although Mark shows that Jesus was doing all these great things, it is remarkable to see that Jesus saw his main ministry in proclaiming the Word of God (1:14,38).

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

Our text tells the story of Jesus leaving Jewish borders and entering gentile "country" into the region of Tyre, which was about 50 miles away. Jesus left Jewish country to finally go somewhere where people would not follow him, probably because of the miracles (6:53-56). With his traveling toward gentile country, Jesus broke traditional Jewish laws, which commanded that a Jew would have nothing to do with the gentile and would NEVER enter their house.

While in a foreign country, Jesus is approached by a woman whose daughter was demon - possessed. The woman asked Jesus to heal her daughter. With a strange answer, Jesus answers her. The woman's response to Jesus impressed him, so that he heals the demon possessed daughter, without ever seeing her.

Some questions to engage with the text:

1. What brought the woman to go and ask Jesus for help?
2. In the context of Jesus's understanding of his ministry, is verse 27 to be understood that Jesus was excluding non-Jews from the message he brought? Was Jesus a racist?  
- Question 1 and the background information will help you answer this question!
3. What does the woman's response show about her understanding of Jesus and her understanding of herself?

*Note:* The context gives a helpful view to understand our passage. Jesus just pointed out the difference between clean and unclean food. Now, he approaches people who were avoided by Jews, signifying that uncleanness only persists in the heart.

#### **Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

September 13-19

Acts 1

September 20-26

Acts 2