## **Consider the Background**

The events of Matthew 15:21-28 raise questions best answered by considering the culture and times in which those events occurred. With your partner, consult the commentary, study Bibles, or Internet sources to answer the following questions:

Who were the Canaanites?

What barriers did the woman break to reach out to Jesus?

How do the reactions of the disciples and Jesus illustrate the presence of these barriers?

What other discoveries have you made that would help one understand the text?

## **Challenging Her Faith**

Compare Matthew 15:21-28 and John 4:4-26. Work with a partner to study each section of John 4:4-26 and describe how Jesus challenged the Samaritan woman and strengthened her faith.

John 4:4-8	
John 4:9-12	
John 4:13-15	
John 4:16-18	
John 4:19-24	
John 4:25-26	

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