



# The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1-8

◀ The Point ▶

**We pray without giving up.**

 Key Verse

“Never stop praying.”  
—1 Thessalonians 5:17

### CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

Each option below is designed to last 10 minutes. The option used to tell the Bible story is designated with the Bible image. Always choose this option for your large-group time. Use the chart below to plan your large-group time in whatever order fits your needs. Check the options you want to use.

## Large Group

### YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or video projection unit (VPU) • DVD player • CD player

Choose Your Options	Get Your Supplies	Planning Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Welcome</b> <i>Connect With Groups</i>	• Large-Group DVD	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Praise &amp; Worship</b> <i>Sing It Out</i>	• Large-Group DVD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Object Lesson</b> <i>Color Change</i> 	• Large-Group DVD • two clear, empty 2-liter bottles • water • towel or tablecloth (optional) • blue and yellow food coloring • funnel	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Experience</b> <i>Step It Up!</i>	• Large-Group DVD	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Game</b> <i>Constant Catches</i>	• Large-Group DVD • Colossal Crayon ( <i>provided in kit</i> ) • Graffiti Ball ( <i>provided in kit</i> )	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DVD Drama</b> <i>Don't Give Up</i>	• Large-Group DVD	

Teach the Key Verse anytime during large group.

## Small Group

### WHAT GROUPS WILL NEED

Bibles • Bible Memory Makers® • “Living Inside Out Every Day!” handouts

Preschool Supplies	Lower Elementary Supplies	Upper Elementary Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gift bag</li> <li>• dowel stick</li> <li>• string</li> <li>• paper clip</li> <li>• stickers</li> <li>• paper</li> <li>• cardboard</li> <li>• aluminum foil</li> <li>• paper towels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wet wipes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paper</li> <li>• small cup</li> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• paper towels</li> </ul>



Tear off for easy planning.

# The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1-8



**Bible Foundation**

## STORY TIME

Jesus told his disciples a story about prayer—a story that could have been easily misunderstood. In the story, a mistreated widow tried to find justice from an uncaring and unreligious judge—who cavalierly ignored her. Refusing to give up, the widow pestered him with her case. Eventually, claiming that “this woman is driving me crazy,” the judge granted her the much-needed justice. This story, Jesus said, is about how we should “always pray and never give up.”

## THE MORAL?

A dangerous misunderstanding of this parable is to equate the unjust judge with God—leading to the distorted ideas that God doesn’t really care about us and that we shouldn’t expect justice from him. Further, it could seem as if the whole point of prayer is to annoy God repeatedly in order to get him to pay attention to us.

## NOT THE CASE

The judge in the parable isn’t God—he isn’t even *close* to God. Scripture tells us repeatedly that God hears the cry of the poor and the widow and cares passionately about their needs (for example, see Deuteronomy 10:18 and James 1:27). Further, we know God delights in hearing our prayers (Proverbs 15:8)—he certainly doesn’t find them annoying. Plus, God is the very essence of justice (Isaiah 61:1, 8); he’s the creator of all that is right and good, and his desire is to see true justice done in our broken, sin-plagued world.

## THE MAIN POINT

“Even he [the judge] rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night?” The analogy Jesus draws here is a “lesser to greater” argument. He uses an imperfect human example to demonstrate how much more our righteous, just, loving, attentive, good, and perfect God will respond to persistent prayer. In modern terms, Jesus might have said it like this, “Even a total heathen responds to persistence. Just imagine how our awesome God responds to persistent prayers of his own kids.”

## LIVING INSIDE OUT

So what’s on your “I give up” list when it comes to prayer? What need, person, cause, dream, or decision have you stopped praying about because you feel an answer will never come? Don’t lose hope in God—in his care, his love, his attentiveness, his justice. Be like the persistent widow—resurrect those laid-aside requests and bring them to God with persistence by praying about them daily this week. Heed the words in Luke 18:1—*Never. Give. Up.*



# The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Large-Group  
Lesson  
**4**

Luke 18:1-8

## Welcome



Allow 5 minutes

### YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 COUNT DOWN**  
Play one of the countdowns. Have children get with their small groups, and get them excited to worship!
- 2 GREET**  
Have small-group leaders greet kids in their groups—especially guests.
- 3 ANNOUNCE**  
Make any announcements (including birthdays), and collect offerings.

## Praise & Worship



Allow 10 minutes

### YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 SING**  
“Living Inside Out” (Song 1)  
“Pray” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) (Song 2)  
“All That I Am” (Psalm 103:1) (Song 5)  
“I Will Not Be Afraid” (Song 6)
- 2 PRAY**  
Thank God for answering when we pray, and for helping us not give up when we pray.
- 3 MAKE THE CONNECTION**  
Say: **It’s easy to give up when we don’t get our way or when something feels hard. It’s easy to quit when we try and try—and can’t get something. But that’s not how Jesus told us to pray. He told us to ask, ask again, and then keep on asking! When ► we pray without giving up, we show God our faith—and we show him that we won’t give up so easily.**

### Leader Tip

#### Easy Options:

- Sing along with DVD lyrics and motions.
- Sing along with the CD.
- Show media slides provided on the CD.





# DVD Drama

## YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

## Don't Give Up

### 1 INTRODUCE

Say: **When we pray, what happens when we don't get an answer right away? Or what happens if we get an answer we don't like? Watch how one family prays even when the answers may not be what they want.**

### 2 WATCH *Don't Give Up*

Cue the DVD to the video *Don't Give Up*.

### 3 DISCUSS IN GROUPS *Don't Give Up Questions*

Cue screens as kids answer each of the following:

- **What did you think about what the Green family said about prayer?**
- **Tell about a time you prayed about something more than once.**
- **Why do you think God answers some prayers right away, but not others?**

### 4 MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **God hears our prayers. Every prayer. It may seem as if God isn't listening, but it may just be that God has a plan we don't know about. We can't know everything about God, but one thing we do know is that God hears us when we pray. And that's why ► we pray without giving up.**

