

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 18: The Parable of the Persistent Widow
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Has there been a time when you have been crying out for justice in the face of oppression, either on your own behalf or that of another? Discuss this with one another. What did (or could) “faithfulness” look like in that situation? What emotions are associated with seeing people treated unfairly?

Digging In: Luke 18:1-8

1. This text begins with Jesus stating the reason why He is telling this parable. In light of the previous chapter, why might it be necessary to talk about praying with persistence?
2. The two most important attributes for a good judge in the 1st century would have been a regard for justice (fear of God) and compassion for the people. What kind of judge does Jesus use for this story? Is this significant?
3. The widow in this parable persistently asks for justice from her enemy. The text uses a colorful Greek expression which literally means the widow was “striking the eye” (or giving me (the judge) a black eye). On what basis does this judge choose to rule?
4. What is the point of this parable? What lesson(s) is Jesus trying to teach His disciples?
5. Do you find that your prayers for justice are answered quickly?
6. Jesus seems to want to be able to find people praying with persistence when He chooses to return. How can you (your group) help each other in this direction?

Reflection: (from whchurch.org)

1. When you pray, do you find that your prayers for justice are answered quickly?
2. What are some ways that we today are like the unjust judge, choosing not to hear the cry of the poor, the oppressed, and those who are the victims of the systems in place today?
3. While thinking about the answer to question #2, how could we move from being the unjust judges in this situation to someone who cries out and witnesses on behalf of the sufferings ones? How would this affect our prayer life? How else might it affect our lives?
4. What is one way we, as a group, can respond together to this message?

Prayer: Holy God, bring justice and may we help in the process of bringing about your will on the earth as it is in Heaven. May we hear the cry of the broken hearted and respond with love and grace, the same love and grace you have shown us.