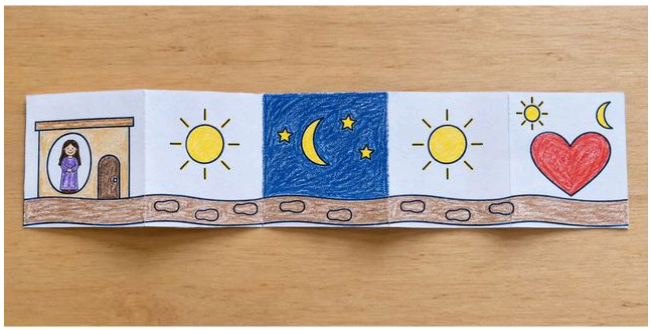
Preschool–Grade 5

The Persistent Widow Craft

Always pray, and don't give up · Luke 18:1–8 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

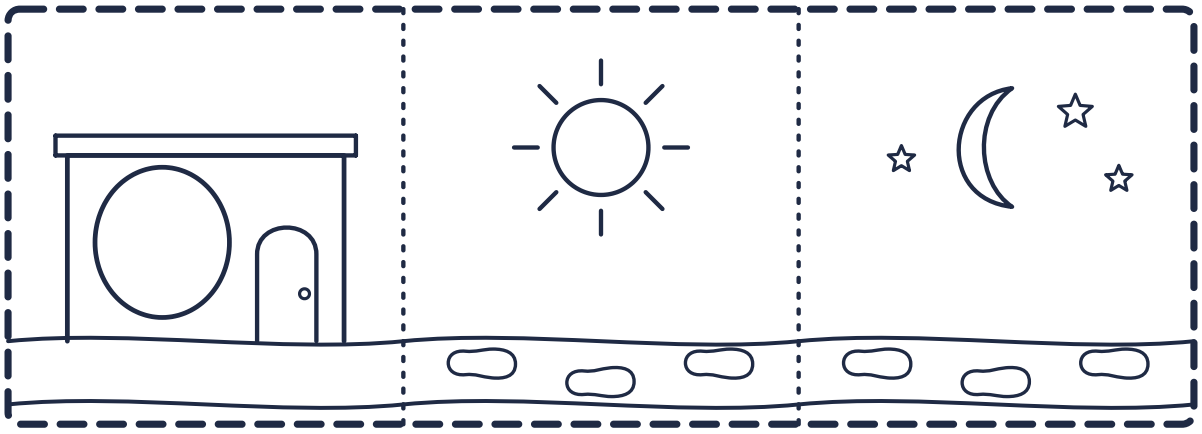
Both levels are a fold-out paper path: the widow's house, then a brown road with little footprints under a sun, a moon and stars, and a sun again, ending at a red heart. The widow kept coming (Luke 18:5), and God hears His own "day and night" (18:7). Medium (left): the path. Harder (right): the same, with seven brown prayer sandals in a walking line in front of it.

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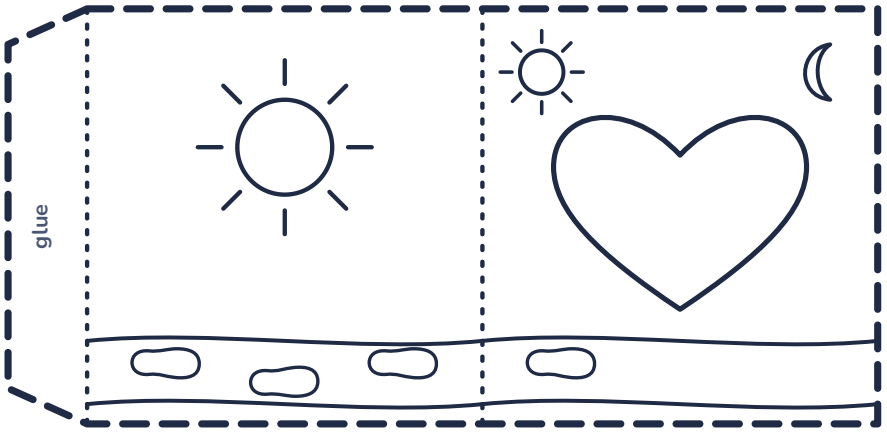
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines

strip 1: color it, and draw the widow in the oval window



strip 2: color it, and glue its tab behind the moon picture



verse: glue on back of house

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Luke 18:1 (KJV)

fold back and forth on the dotted lines

Color the road brown, the house tan with a brown door, the suns, moon and stars yellow, the sky around the moon dark blue and the heart red. Draw the widow in the oval window. Cut out the two strips and the verse card. Glue the tab of strip 2 behind the moon picture, glue the verse card on the back of the house, and fold back and forth on the dotted lines.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Seven prayer sandals (harder level)

One for each day this week: keep coming to God, like the widow kept coming.



day 1 day 2 day 3 day 4 day 5 day 6 day 7

sandals: color them brown, cut them out, and write a prayer on the back of each

How to make the prayer sandals

1. Make the prayer path from page 2 first.
2. Color the seven sandals brown. Color the two straps on each one a darker brown.
3. Cut them out on the dashed lines.
4. On the back of each sandal, write one thing to pray about: someone who is sick, a friend who needs Jesus, your family, your church, something hard you are waiting for.
5. Fold the path closed and keep the sandals with it. Each day this week, take one sandal, pray what it says, and lay it down in front of the path next to yesterday's, so your path of prayers grows. Jesus said "that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/persistent-widow-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in brown, tan, yellow, dark blue and red, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a pencil.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out strip 1, strip 2 and the verse card ahead of time. Glue the tab of strip 2 behind the moon picture and glue the verse card on the back of the house.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the path together with the verse on the back. Kids color it, draw the widow in the window, and walk their fingers along the road saying, "She kept coming!"
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut, glue the two strips into one path, fold it, and tell the story with it. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the path like the medium level. Then add the seven prayer sandals from page 3, with a prayer written on the back of each, one for each day this week. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the road brown on both strips. Color the house tan and its door brown, the suns and the moon and stars yellow, the sky around the moon dark blue, and the heart red.
2. **Draw:** in the oval window of the house, draw the widow: a woman with long hair and a long dress.
3. **Cut:** cut out strip 1, strip 2 (with its glue tab) and the verse card on the dashed lines.
4. **Join:** put glue on the tab of strip 2 and press it behind the moon picture at the end of strip 1, so the road keeps going.
5. **Verse:** glue the verse card on the back of the house picture. Read it together.
6. **Fold:** fold the path back and forth on the dotted lines, like a fan.
7. **Tell it:** the widow came to the judge (Luke 18:3). Walk your fingers along the road, day, night, day: she kept coming (18:5). At the heart, say: God hears His own day and night (18:7), so always pray and don't give up (18:1).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Why did Jesus tell this parable? *(That men ought always to pray, and not to faint, Luke 18:1)*
- Who was in the city? *(A judge which feared not God, neither regarded man, 18:2)*
- Point to the house. Who lived in that city too? *(A widow, 18:3)*
- What did she ask the judge? *("Avenge me of mine adversary," 18:3)*
- Did he help her right away? *(No, he would not for a while, 18:4)*
- Walk along the road. Why did the judge finally say he would help her? *(Because of her continual coming, 18:5)*
- Point to the sun and the moon. When do God's own people cry to Him? *(Day and night, 18:7)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **parable** is a story Jesus told to teach a lesson; **faint** means give up; a **widow** is a woman whose husband has died; **regarded** means cared about; an **adversary** is someone who is against you, and **avenge me** means do what is right for me; **continual coming** means coming again and again; **unjust** means unfair; God's **elect** are His own people.
- **What the Bible says:** the widow and the judge both lived in "a city" (Luke 18:2–3). The Bible doesn't name the city, describe her house, or say how many times she came. The house, road, footprints and heart are only the craft's way to show her continual coming and God's love.
- **God is not like the judge:** the judge was unjust (18:6). Jesus' point is the opposite: if even he said he would help her, how much more will God hear His own, who cry to Him day and night (18:7). That is why the path ends at a heart.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** kids draw the widow themselves in the oval window, with long hair and a long dress.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut and glue everything ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child say, "She kept coming!" as they walk their fingers along the road.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free persistent widow lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/persistent-widow.

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