Preschool–Grade 6

The Persistent Widow

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can always pray to God.
Bible passage: Luke 18. Read Luke 18:1–8 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "men ought always to pray" *Luke 18:1 (KJV)*. **Ought** means should.
You need: a Bible, soft blocks or paper cups for stacking, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 18.

1. Opening game: Build It Again (5 minutes)

Kids stack blocks or cups as high as they can. When the tower falls, everyone says, "Don't give up!" and builds it again. Do it two or three times. Say: "Good job! You did not give up. Today we will hear a true story Jesus told about a woman who did not give up."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 18. Say: "Jesus told this story. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus said: always pray, and don't give up (Luke 18:1). *(Fold your hands.)*
There was a judge in a city. He did not fear God (18:2). *(Cross your arms and frown.)*
There was a widow. Her husband had died (18:3). *(Make a sad face.)*
She asked the judge for help (18:3). *(Hold out your hands.)*
He would not help her (18:4). *(Shake your head no.)*
She came again, and again, and again (18:5). *(Walk in place.)*
Say it with me: "She did not give up!"
At last the judge said he would help her (18:5). *(Nod your head yes.)*
God is good. He is not like that judge (18:6–7). *(Point up.)*
God hears us day and night (18:7). *(Make a big sun with your arms, then lay your head on your hands to sleep.)*
Say it with me: "I can always pray to God!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who kept coming to the judge? *(A widow, Luke 18:3)*
2. Did she give up? *(No, she kept coming, 18:5)*
3. When can we pray to God? *(Always, day and night, 18:1, 18:7)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'men ought always to pray.' That means we should always pray." Teach the motions: point to everyone for "men," fold your hands for "always to pray." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Luke 18:1" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Sun and Moon Prayers (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a sun on one side and a moon on the other side, and then color them. While they color, say: "We can pray in the morning, and we can pray at night!" Kids who finish early can play Build It Again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for hearing me.
Help me pray every day. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the "she came again, and again, and again" part fun and let the kids walk in place each time. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks what a widow is: say, "A widow is a woman whose husband has died. She needed help, and she kept asking."

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