Preschool–Grade 6

The Persistent Widow

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Always pray and don't give up, because God hears us and cares for us.
Bible passage: Luke 18:1–8. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" *Luke 18:1 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, a wastebasket or box, three balls of crumpled paper, paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 18:1. Put the wastebasket a few big steps away from a line on the floor.

1. Opening game: Keep Trying (5 minutes)

Each child stands on the line and tosses a paper ball into the wastebasket. If they miss, they pick it up and try again, and the class cheers, "Keep trying!" Everyone keeps going until they make it. Ask: *Was it hard to keep trying when you missed? Did you want to give up?* Say: "Today Jesus tells a story about a woman who did not give up, and it teaches us to never give up praying."

2. Bible story: She Kept Coming (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 18, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Say: "Jesus told a **parable**. A parable is a story Jesus told to teach us something." Tell it in your own words:

Jesus told this story so we would know that we should **always pray, and not give up** (Luke 18:1).

In a city there was a **judge**. A judge is a person whose job is to decide what is right and help people who have been treated wrong. But this judge did not fear God, and he did not care about people (18:2).

In that same city there was a **widow**. A widow is a woman whose husband has died. She came to the judge and asked him, "Avenge me of mine adversary" (18:3). That means, "Please do what is right for me against the person who is against me."

The story continues: At first the judge would not help her (18:4). But the widow did not give up. She kept coming to him again and again. The judge said to himself that he did not fear God or care about people. But because this widow kept bothering him, he would help her, so her coming again and again would not wear him out (18:4–5).

Then Jesus said, "Hear what the unjust judge saith" (18:6). **Unjust** means not fair and not good. Jesus said: if even that unfair judge said he would help the widow, then God will surely help His own people, who cry to Him day and night (18:7)! **Read Luke 18:8 from your Bible:** "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily." Say: "God is not like that judge. God is good, and He loves us. He hears every prayer."

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Why did Jesus tell this story? *(So we would always pray and not give up, Luke 18:1)*
2. Did the judge fear God? *(No, he feared not God, 18:2)*
3. Who kept coming to the judge? *(A widow, 18:3)*
4. Did the judge help her right away? *(No, not for a while, 18:4)*
5. When do God's people cry to Him? *(Day and night, 18:7)*

4. Memory verse: Keep Coming (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **spake** means spoke, a **parable** is a story Jesus told to teach us, **ought** means should, and **faint** here means give up. Say the verse together in these four parts: *And he spake a parable unto them / to this end, that men ought always to pray, / and not to faint; / Luke 18:1.* Then play Keep Coming: the kids take one step toward you each time they say the whole verse. When they reach you, everyone says, "Don't give up!"

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The widow kept coming, and God wants us to keep coming to Him in prayer. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: pick one thing to pray about every morning and every night, and keep praying even if you have to wait.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **persistent widow word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/persistent-widow-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the persistent widow craft (vbshq.com/crafts/persistent-widow-craft), or **Day and Night Prayer Page:** each child folds a paper in half. On one side they draw a sun, and on the other side a moon and stars. Under each, they draw or write one thing they will pray about in the morning and at night.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You always hear us. Help us pray to You every day and never give up, even when we have to wait. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why God didn't give them what they prayed for: answer gently. God always hears us and loves us. Sometimes we have to wait, and God answers in the way that is best. Jesus said to keep praying and not give up (Luke 18:1).

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