

3-6 | July 26

Bible Story: The Story of the Widow Who Would Not Give Up • *Luke 18:1-8*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.

Conversation Starter: What do you need to keep doing?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Open space for kids to stand and move

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Have the kids spread out in the open space.
- Explain that you are going to play a game called "Keep It Going!"
- Choose one simple action for everyone to repeat continuously, such as:
 - o Hopping on one foot
 - o Clapping above their head
 - o Doing jumping jacks
 - o Marching in place
 - o Balancing on one foot
 - o Doing pushups
- Challenge the kids to keep going without stopping while you count slowly or encourage them from the sidelines.
- Every so often, call out a new action for everyone to switch to.
- If a child stops or gets tired, encourage them to jump back in and keep trying.
- Continue playing for several rounds, cheering the kids on for not giving up.

What You Say:

"You all did a great job sticking with it! Some of those actions were hard to keep doing, especially when your legs got tired or you felt like stopping. But you kept going and didn't give up. That's called persistence. Persistence means continuing to try even when something feels difficult.

"In our Bible Story today, Jesus told a story about someone who kept asking and asking and asking without giving up. Jesus wanted His followers to learn something important about persistence and prayer. Let's go hear what happened!"

2. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to one song and then watch today's video lesson.

3. Prayer

"Let's open up today in prayer. God, thank You for the story of the widow who would not give up. It reminds us that You aren't like the grumpy judge, but You are a loving Father who delights in hearing from Your kids. Help us to be persistent in our prayers. Help us not to give up when we don't see an answer right away. We trust You, and we know Your kingdom grows when we keep coming to You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

4. Balloon People

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Balloon People" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Latex-free balloons
- ☐ Balloon pumps
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Sharpies for balloon
- ☐ Large googly eye stickers

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Balloon People" on cardstock, one per kid.
- Punch a hole in between the shoes on each kid's cutout where indicated.

During the Activity:

- Open your Bible to Luke 18:1-8, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Review the Bible Story with the kids. Share the following points:
 - Jesus wanted to tell a story about how we should pray and never give up.
 - In His story, Jesus told about a widow who came over and over to an unfair judge and asked him to help her.
 - The judge didn't care about God or what other people thought, but he finally helped the widow because she came to him over and over for help.
 - Jesus told this story to teach us about God. Since an unfair, uncaring judge finally made things right, we can be absolutely sure that God, who loves us deeply, will help us when we ask.

- Give each kid a balloon and a “Balloon People” Activity Page cutout.
- Ask kids to decorate their cutout.
- Help kids to blow up their balloon and tie it in a knot.
- Show kids how to insert the knot into the hole in their cutout.
- Ask kids to add googly eye stickers to their balloons.
- They may use the sharpies to draw a face and hair on their balloons.

What You Say:

“These balloon people are a great way to remember our Bible Story from today! The woman in Jesus’ story kept coming over and over and over to ask the judge for help. She probably didn’t have shoes like these, but she kept walking over to the judge and walking over to the judge, and he finally helped her. The judge didn’t help the woman because he was a good judge; he helped her because she was so persistent!

“Jesus told us this story to teach us about God. He is not like the mean judge at all! He is kind and loves us so much! Since an unfair judge finally helped the woman who came to him, we can know for sure that God is going to help us when we come to Him for help. And when you come to Him and come to Him and come to Him, you will grow closer to Him because you’re talking to Him all the time. **[Bottom Line] God’s kingdom grows when you pray and don’t give up.**”

5. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Music player
- ☐ Upbeat music

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- In an open space in your activity area, place one set of colored cups up and the other set of colored cups down.

During the Activity:

- Divide the group into two teams: Team Up and Team Down.
- Explain the rules:
 - Players from both teams move simultaneously through the field of play.
 - Team Up flips any upside-down cup to be right-side up, and Team Down flips any right-side-up cup to be upside-down.
 - You can only flip one cup at a time.
 - You cannot “guard” cups or hold them; you must flip and move to the next.
 - Any cup knocked onto its side doesn’t count for either team at the end of the round.
 - When the music stops, all players must immediately freeze and step away from the cups.
 - Decide which team has more cups flipped their way at the end.

- Play a few rounds, each round being a few minutes each.

What You Say:

"That was intense! You couldn't stop for a second because the other team was always working against you.

"In the story Jesus told, the widow kept asking, kept seeking, and kept bothering the judge for what she wanted. In the same way, we are to go to God with our needs and desires and keep asking, over and over and over. That doesn't mean He will answer right away or even in the way we think is best. Sometimes God says, 'Yes.' Sometimes He says, 'No.' And a lot of times, God says, 'Not yet.' But no matter what, Jesus gives us permission to keep on asking for what we want. Jesus' story encourages us to be persistent. Don't stop. Don't get discouraged. When you keep talking to God and talking to God and talking to God, you will grow closer to Him! **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-friendly time when you prayed for a long time about something. For example, you can share something like: "There have been things I've prayed about for years. It's easy to wonder if God is listening. But then I remember this story. It reminds me that my job isn't to figure out God's timing; my job is to be persistent in my relationship with Him and keep bringing my requests to Him.")