

Sunday between October 16 and 22 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 18:1-8](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/properc24.htm>

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115801_ENG_HTM.htm

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/29-c/A-29-c.html>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/persistence-in-prayer.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Bring an instrument or a picture of someone playing an instrument

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children the following: Who knows what the word persistent means? (*Wait for their responses.*) Explain that 'persistent' is a word that we use to describe somebody who keeps on trying and asking even when it seems difficult to do so. Now ask the children if they play a musical instrument or know anyone who plays a musical instrument. (*Again wait for their responses. Bring out the instrument or show them the picture of someone playing an instrument.*) Playing a musical instrument takes a lot of persistence – it takes practice, it takes time, even when you don't want to take the time, if you want to get good at it, you need persistence. In today's story Jesus tells us about how being persistent in prayer is a way to show our faith in God.

Story Time

Instructions

- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today’s story.

Jesus was with his friends and others who wanted to learn about God’s kingdom. Jesus was teaching by telling people special stories called parables. These stories let us learn about how to live in the world.

One day, Jesus taught his friends about being persistent in their faith and in prayer. To be determined in all that they do for God. To continue always to show their faith. Jesus told them this parable.

In a city lived a judge – someone who decided who had done right and who had done wrong. This judge did not fear God. This judge didn’t care what anyone thought about him.

In that same city live a widow – a woman whose husband was dead. This widow kept coming and coming to the judge. The widow said, “Give me justice. Someone has done a wrong thing and I need justice!”

Again and again the widow came to the judge and said, “Give me justice. Someone has done a wrong thing and I need justice!”

The judge ignored the widow. He didn’t listen to the pleas of the widow. He knew he didn’t have to listen. But the widow was like a drip of water – she just kept drip, dripping, away at the judge.

Finally the judge gave in. He said to himself, “I have no fear of God and I don’t care what anyone thinks about me. However this widow keeps bothering me. I will grant her justice so that she won’t keep bothering me. I will grant her justice so that she doesn’t wear me out.”

After he told this parable, Jesus told his friends, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. Don’t you think God will grant justice to those who love God and walk in God’s way? God will grant them justice. Work at your faith. Be persistent. Pray all the time.”

Response

Project Idea 1: Prayer Wheel

Prayer is a discipline and it takes practice and persistence. This response will give the children a chance to practice the discipline of prayer and continue their faith journey.

Materials needed

- 2 paper plates per child
- brass fasteners
- scissors and glue
- ruler
- marker
- construction paper in the following colours: red, black, yellow and white
- images at the end of the lesson

Instructions

Take one of the paper plates and cut $\frac{1}{4}$ of the plate away, so that it leaves a pie-shaped triangle out of the plate. Poke a brass fastener through the centre of the plate with the missing triangle. Take one of the plates and draw circles on the construction paper. Cut them out and then cut each circle into 4 equal pie shaped pieces. You will need one set of the four colours for each child. Copy the images at the end of the lesson, so that you have one set for each child. This prayer wheel will use part of a tradition of the First Nations of Canada – the four colours that go with the four directions. Yellow – East. Black – South. Red – West. White – North. As you give each child a set of prepared materials, explain to them that the prayer wheel they are going to make honours the first peoples of North America. Have the children glue each of the colours onto the prayer wheel so that it makes a complete circle inside one of the plates. Give each child a set of the images and have them cut them out – younger ones will need help with this. Have the children glue the heart shape onto the yellow triangle, the forgiveness shape onto the black triangle, the praise shape on the red triangle and the needs of the world on the white triangle. Take the plate with the brass fastener in it and place it on top of the other plate and push the fastener through the centre of the bottom plate. Spread the fastener out on the outside of the plate to keep them attached. Show the children how the top plate will spin over the bottom plate and they can turn it and pray each section as they come to it. Encourage the children to share their prayer wheels with their families and use them in their prayer time.

Project Idea 2: Prayer Flowers

A bouquet of flowers that the children can take home and introduce the idea of praying regularly will be a good response to Jesus' request that we continue to have faith in God.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- pipe cleaners
- ribbon or yarn
- scissors and glue
- prayer wheel images at the end of the lesson
- flower shape at the end of the lesson
- strong tape or a stapler with staples

Instructions

Copy the flower shape, cut it out and then trace it onto the construction paper. Make four flowers for each child. Copy the prayer wheel images so that you have one set for each child. Give each child a set of flowers and the images. Explain to them what each image means and how to use it to pray regularly and be faithful as Jesus wants us to be. Have them cut out the images and glue one to each flower. When they are done this, tape or staple a pipe cleaner to the back of each flower. Cut a piece of ribbon or yarn and have them tie the flowers together in a bouquet. Suggest to the children that they use a different flower each day when they pray with their families.

Project Idea 3: Prayer cards

This response gives the children a way to share Jesus' message of faith and prayer with someone else.

Materials needed

- card stock
- markers
- scissors and glue
- tissue paper
- clear contact paper

Instructions

Cut the card stock into 4 equal pieces. Make sure you have enough to give each child two pieces. Tear up the tissue paper into small pieces. Have the children glue the pieces into a collage onto the card stock pieces. When they are done have them print “**Have faith**” or “**Pray always**” on top of the tissue paper with a marker – younger children will need help with this part. Cover each card with a piece of contact paper so as to protect the card. Invite the children to think about who they would like to give one of the cards to. Explain that they can use the prayer cards to remind themselves to pray or have faith just as Jesus asked of us and that they can give the other card to someone who also needs to hear this message from Jesus.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

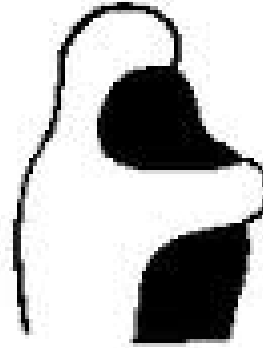
Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.

Prayer Wheel Images

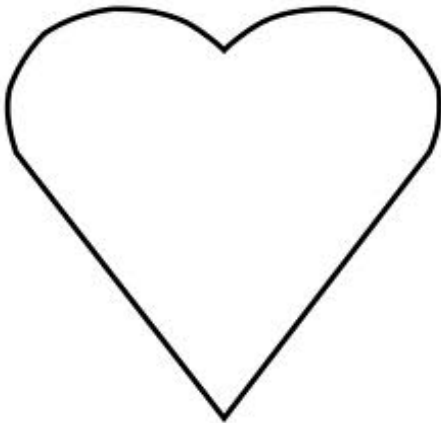
Praise



Forgiveness



Love



Needs of the World



Flower

