

# God Answers Prayer

**OBJECTIVE:** *To encourage each other to always pray and not give up.*



## WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about prayer that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

"God Is So Good"

"He Has Made Me Glad"

"Only by Grace"

"Standin' in the Need of Prayer"

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

"Whisper a Prayer"

## STORY

The Persistent Widow, Luke 18:1-8

- A woman keeps asking a judge for justice.
- The judge gives her what she wants just to keep her from bothering him.
- Jesus says God will help us when we ask him.

Before your group meets, ask one person to be the judge and the other to be the widow. Ask the judge to pretend to read a newspaper silently and ignore the widow. Ask the widow to do different things to try to get the judge's attention: tap him on the arm, jump up and down, wave, tug at his sleeve. They should do this the whole time you are reading the passage. When you read the part about the judge finally giving the woman what she wanted, the judge should say, "OK! OK! I'll give you what you want!"

## MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1).

Discuss the meaning of the word *parable* and repeat the verse together several times. Then, to remember the point of the verse, sing part of it to the tune of "Jimmy Cracked Corn."



Al - ways pray and don't give up. Al - ways pray and don't give up.

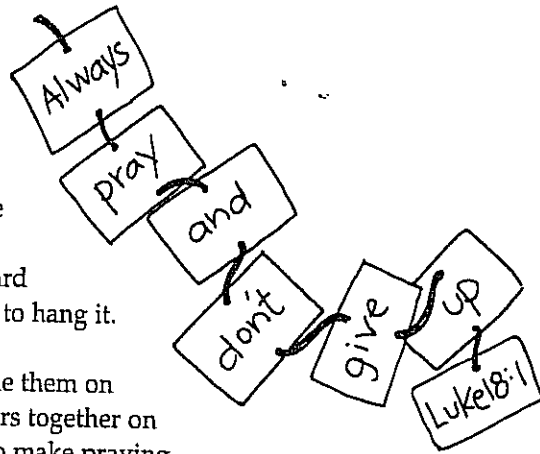


Al - ways pray and don't give up, for God an - swers prayer.

## ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

**WALL HANGINGS.** Give each person seven index cards. On each card, the person writes one word of the verse, "Always pray and don't give up." Put the reference, Luke 18:1, on the last card. Punch a hole in the top and bottom of each card. Thread a ribbon or yarn through the holes, tying it at each top hole to keep the card from slipping. Tie a loop in the top of the ribbon or yarn to hang it.



**PRAYER BOOKLETS.** Fold sheets of paper in half. Staple them on the fold. Each person places one hand, palm down, fingers together on the top sheet of the booklet. He traces around his hand to make praying hands. Inside, he writes prayers and leaves spaces to record the answers. Discuss Luke 18:1-8.

**DON'T GIVE UP.** Play a game with index cards. There should be three or four players for each game. For each player in the game there should be seven cards, each marked as in the Wall Hanging activity. For example, there should be one card per player that says *Always*, one that says *pray*, and so on. Shuffle cards and deal three to each player. The rest go facedown in the center. The first player asks another for a card that matches one in his own hand. If the other player has that card, he gives it to the first player. If he doesn't have that card, he says, "Don't give up," and the first player has to draw from the cards in the center. When a player gets four cards that match (or three if only three people are playing), he stacks them nearby. The first player to get rid of his cards wins. This is like the game "Go Fish."

**SKILLS.** Try some physical skills, such as jumping rope, using a hula hoop, throwing a beanbag into a basket or box. You might use milk jugs with the bottoms cut out to throw and catch a ball. Do a crab walk: sit down, support your body with your hands and feet, then walk on hands and feet. Have two people sit back-to-back, link arms, and then try to stand up. Talk about not giving up. Read Luke 18:1-8. Ask: "Why should we not give up praying?"

## QUESTIONS

1. How can we pray? When? Where?
2. Do you remember a time when you prayed again and again for something and God finally gave you what you asked for? If so, tell about it.
3. Tell about a time God answered no to a prayer that you or someone else prayed. Why would God answer no?

## KIDS' COUNCIL

### BRING IT HOME

- Give some reasons why God might not give you what you ask for.
- Read and discuss James 4:1-3.
- Why would God want us to keep on asking after he heard us the first time?
- What can you do to help you remember to pray about something and not to give up?

### SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- If there are things that some children have kept asking God for, pray again for these things together.
- Thank God for hearing and answering prayers.

## ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Why would God want us to keep on asking after he heard us the first time?
- Is there ever a time to stop praying for something before you know God's answer? If so, when?
- Is there something you are praying now that you've been praying for a long time and have not yet seen God's answer? Would you like the group to join you in praying for this?
- Has God ever answered a prayer of yours with a no, and later you were glad he didn't give you what you asked for? Tell about it if you are comfortable sharing that experience.

## SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

**Sourdough Bread.** Serve hot sourdough bread with butter and jam, jelly, or honey. If someone in your group bakes bread and has sourdough starter, show everyone the starter. If not, tell everyone how sourdough bread is made. (The starter is used over and over again as the leavening agent for the bread.) Use this as a springboard to discuss praying for something over and over again like the widow in the story did.