



October 7, 2018

“Because Jesus has earned his Father’s ear, we can rest assured that God hears our every prayer.”

- Ken Peters

Primary Text: Luke 18:1-8 (Persistent Widow)

1. Pray (2 mins)

Pause. Acknowledge you are about to open God’s word.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

2. Warm-Up (20 mins)

Prepare our minds to receive.

- How was the homework? Any discoveries you would like to share?
- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what most resonated with you?

3. Illuminate (30 mins)

On the reverse side of this page you will find our text. Use this page to circle/underline/connect.

- What context needs to be revealed before we open this text?
- What is unique about the structure of this parable?
- What was the woman’s only true asset before the judge?
- A recurring theme in the Bible is the “lesser to greater” argument (i.e. - if the lesser is true, than how much more will the greater be). Do you see this argument in this parable?
- What do verses 7 and 8 tell us about the character of God?
- What instruction does verse 8B give us?
- The truths of the Bible are meant to be shared. Let’s close our Bibles and notes and try to walk through this text together as a group from memory.
- Does everyone feel confident in their understanding of this text? Any questions we need to research to answer next week?

4. Pray (10 mins)

Learn about prayer. Close in prayer.

“I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this—the measure of the intensity of your prayer. I am not speaking about the quantity of it, for there are some who, for a pretense, make long prayers. I am speaking about the reality of it, the intensity of it.

- Charles Spurgeon

TEXT: Luke 18:1-7 (The Parable of the Persistent Widow). Mark-up as needed.

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

READY HOMEWORK

(Find Ready Resources at warrenbaptist.org/ready)

1) Read Luke 18:9-14 (The Pharisee and the Tax Collector). Mark up as needed.

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed^[a] thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

2) What do you think Jesus’ main message was in this text? Any questions you need to research further?
