

Special Lesson - Great Lent

Lesson 5. Sunday of the Judge: The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Scripture References: Luke 18:1-8

*Students can take turns reading this parable.

Class Activity: Discuss and Write

The activity is indicated in the lesson body on third page.

Craft Activity: “Never Give Up” Heart Craft

Song: [P.R.A.Y.](#) (duration 1:45)

MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Importance of persistent prayer.

Words of the week:

ամենազէտ – a-men-a-ked – omniscient

դատաւոր – ta-da-vor – judge

այրի – ayr-ee – widow

Memory Verse:

Yet, because the widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice.

Luke 18:5

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body:

We are halfway through Great Lent! This means we still have 24 more days to pray, fast, and help others before we celebrate Easter. On this Sunday, Jesus tells us a story in the Gospel of Luke 18:1-8 about a widow and a judge. The widow needed help, so she kept asking the judge again and again. At first, he ignored her because he didn't care about people, but because she did not give up, he finally listened!

READ FROM THE BIBLE: LUKE 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

¹ 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 regarded man; ³ and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Vindicate me against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Let's Discuss!

Have you ever asked for something many times before getting it?

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

How can we practice being patient when we pray?

Class Activity: Discuss and Write

1. In light of this information how do you read and understand verses 6-8? Is Jesus comparing the unjust judge with God, or is he contrasting them? Explain your understanding below.

2. What do Jesus' words in verses 7-8 say to you about prayer? How would you feel if what you've asked for in prayer you do not receive?

Words of the Week:

ամենազէտ – **amenaked** – **omniscient**
դատաւոր – **tadavor** – **judge**
այրի – **ayree** – **widow**

Memory Verse:

Yet because the widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice.

Luke 18:5

Song: [P.R.A.Y.](#) (duration 1:45)

There is a word that will help us understand why we don't always receive what we ask in prayer: **omniscient** (*om-nish-uhnt*) - having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all things.

We believe that God is omniscient, he is all knowing. Often, we pray and want to receive the answer right away, but sometimes we aren't ready for the answer and have to wait for the right time. Our omniscient God knows what is good for us in the long run and when to give it to us. We need to wait patiently to see what God has planned for us. We must continue to pray and know that God's plans for us are greater than we think. This means we must constantly pray, never giving up, because God will grant it to us when we are ready for it.

Craft Activity: "Never Give Up" Heart Craft

Materials Needed:

- Red and pink construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue
- Hole punch & yarn (optional)

Instructions:

1. Cut out hearts from red or pink paper.
2. On each heart, write words like "Faith," "Prayer," "Trust," "God Loves Me".
3. Glue or string them together to create a heart garland or mobile.
4. Hand the garland in the classroom as a reminder of persistence prayer.



Review

Memory Verse Review:

Yet because the widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice. (Luke 18:5)

Words of the Week Review:

ամենազէտ – amenaked – omniscient

դատաւոր – tadavor – judge

այրի – ayree – widow

Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. What kind of judge is the judge? (One who neither feared God nor respected man)
2. Why does the judge finally give justice to the widow? (Because she keeps annoying him)
3. What does this mean for us Christians and God? (God, who loves us more, will answer our prayers even more)
4. What does Jesus mean when He says, “when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth”? (He is referring to whether people will be praying like the widow, constantly and with persistence)

Life Application

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

The parable teaches us the importance of God’s willingness to answer prayer and trust in His timing and power. It also teaches us justice and righteousness. Forming a habit of continuous prayer helps strengthen our relationship with God. By continually engaging in meaningful conversations with Him, we develop strong connections on every level: emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Persistence in prayer is important. It demonstrates our deep trust in God, even during the times full of challenges.

** Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev vog-hormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamgyhees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.