

Pray, and Don't Give UP!



Theme: The Parable of the Persistent Widow. Proper 24 (29) Yr. C

Object: Make some stickers with the letters N G U on them.

Scripture: One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. Luke 18:1 (NLT)

I have a sticker for each of you this morning. As you can see, the sticker has the letters N G U on them. Can you guess what those letters stand for? Well, I am not going to tell you right now. First, I am going to tell you our Bible lesson for today, and when I have finished, we will see if anyone can guess what N G U means.

One day Jesus told a story about a woman who went to a judge and said, "My rights are being violated. Protect me!" At first, the judge refused to do anything, but the woman kept asking him. Finally, he said, "This woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!"

After Jesus finished the story, he said, "Learn a lesson from the judge. Even he gave a fair decision in the end. So don't you think that God will step in and help his children when they keep on crying out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will".

Have you ever found yourself in a situation when life was so hard that you just wanted to give up? Maybe you were having trouble with your schoolwork. Perhaps you and a friend had a disagreement and you just couldn't seem to work it out. Or, maybe one of your classmates is bullying you.

What Jesus wants us to learn from this story that he told is that God, our Heavenly Father, loves us and wants to do nice things for us. He wants what is best for us and he has the wisdom to know what is best. But don't forget, he likes to hear us ask, not just once, but again and again. He doesn't want us to ask once and then give up!

Now, do any of you think you know what your N G U sticker means? Well, if you think it means NEVER GIVE UP, you are right. I hope you will wear your sticker today as a reminder to ask your Heavenly Father to help you when you have a problem that makes you want to give up.

There's a song that will help us remember it too. (See below.)

Never give up, never give up.
When all looks hopeless never give up.
Ask Jesus for the strength you need,
And remember, never give up.

Let us pray.

Father, we know that you hear us when we pray and you answer in the way that is best for us. Help us to trust in you and never give up. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sermon Title: "Pray, and Don't Give Up" and "Again and Again"

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:1-8

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER BOARD GAME: The teacher will print out game boards. You you will need a game board for every four to six children. ([CLICK HERE](#) for the game board master in PDF format. The master prints out two pages which will be taped together to make one game board.) Each child will also need a game piece and each group will need a die. These items can be purchased from Amazon.com, a craft store, or you could use colored buttons or something similar.

PRAYING HANDS SILHOUETTE: Have the Children trace a picture of folded hands onto black paper and cut it out. Glue it onto lighter colored construction paper and have the children trace or draw letters of their own for a title of PRAYER CHANGES THINGS.

ASK AGAIN GAME:

Option 1: The leader asks a question of a specific child and the child responds ASK AGAIN. The leader asks again and again and then gives the child the answer to read from a piece of paper.

Option 2: The teacher will have several objects that children would enjoy receiving (ex: donut, toy, marker, candy bar, etc). The teacher gives each child 10 pennies to play this game. Teacher asks a child to give a penny for the object he would like; child will give one penny; teacher will ask again and again until the child has given all the pennies and then will receive the object! Discussion - God wants us to really KNOW we really want it and that we are willing to give all that we have to get what we want.

PERSISTENT PRAYER CHART:

Option #1: The teacher will have pictures of many objects on a chart. The children take turns going to the chart and writing PRAY under a picture and telling WHAT to pray for about that picture! (Examples to follow on 2nd option)

Option #2: The teacher will have the child draw a quick picture of an object and write PRAY underneath it, such as CAR (PRAY for protection and safety); HOUSE (PRAY for the family who lives inside); SCHOOL (PRAY for the children to obey and to follow Jesus; CHURCH (PRAY for the people to learn about Jesus; MUSIC NOTES (PRAY that the children will listen to the right kinds of music; MOUTH (PRAY that children will say the things that will please Jesus; HANDS (PRAY that children will use their hands for Jesus; EARS (PRAY to be careful what we listen to; EYES (PRAY about what we look at); etc.

PRAYER MATCH GAME: Cut colored recipe cards in half. Draw matching pictures on two cards. Write "prayer changes things" on the other side of each card. After drawing 10 different matching sets of cards, mix the cards up and lay out in rows (20 cards total), with words side up to play the matching game. Take turns trying to turn up two cards to match. When a PRAYER MATCH is made, the class will say, PRAYER CHANGES THINGS. (For ideas for card pictures, see above pictures for the Prayer Chart and continue discussion as above.

PRAYER JOURNAL: Have pages available for children to staple or tie together to make a prayer journal booklet. Children can make a TITLE page for their booklet: PRAYER CHANGES THINGS and PRAYER CHANGES ME. The first few pages can be designated as PRAYER CHANGES THINGS and children can start a prayer list of requests and needs. A column can be made for marking the number of times that they ASK the Lord for an answer. Another few pages can be designated as the PRAYER CHANGES ME section and children can list such words as trust, humility, determination, love for others, seeking God, faithful in SS and church, Using my talents

and helping, etc. Encourage children to write in their prayer journal during the week and to bring their journal back to S.S. next week!

PRAYER CIRCLE: Have the children form a circle and say sentence prayers or even single WORD prayers with the teacher suggesting a topic and children taking turns around the circle to pray that way. Example: Thank you Jesus for _____: or Let's Praise Jesus for _____: or Jesus we just want to pray for _____: This is an awesome and fun way to show children that PRAYING is just talking to Jesus and will be much less intimidating for the children!

Again and Again



Theme: Persistence in prayer. Proper 24 (29) Year C

Object: If possible, a hand-held video game and a cell phone.

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

Can you remember a time when you wanted something? I mean REALLY wanted something? You wanted it so much that you thought you just couldn't live without it? Perhaps it was that popular new video game, or maybe you wanted your very own cell phone so that you could call your friends any time you wanted to talk to them. When you really want something, what do you do? You ask your parents for it, right? Do you just ask them once and hope that will be enough? No way! You ask them again and again. You keep on asking and hoping that they will get so tired of hearing you ask, that they will give in and give you what you want.

Let me tell you a little secret about your parents. They love to do nice things for you. They also want what is best for you and they are wise enough to know that it isn't always best to give you everything you want. But they don't mind if you ask. Even if you ask again and again.

That is the way it is with our Heavenly Father too. Jesus once told a story that showed us that when we want our Heavenly Father to do something for us, that we should keep on praying and not give up.

The story that Jesus told was about a woman who went to a judge and said, "My rights are being violated. Protect me!" At first, the judge refused to do anything, but the woman kept asking him. Finally, he said, "I will see that this woman gets justice because she keeps bothering me! If I don't help her, she will wear me out."

"So what makes you think God won't step in and help his children, when they keep on crying out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will" Jesus said.

Our Heavenly Father loves to do nice things for us. He also wants what is best for us and he has the wisdom to know what is best. But don't forget, he likes to hear us ask, again and

again.

Father, we know that you hear us when we pray and you answer in the way that is best for us. Help us to be faithful to pray. Amen.