

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 24**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**

**Scripture: Luke 18:1-8a**

In the final 6 weeks of this Lectionary Year C, a firm and hopeful tone soars in Jesus' teachings in a rich symphony of themes. The background music of the Hebrew Scriptures holds the notes of the new covenant — a law written in our hearts rather than codified in legal structures — The Spirit poured out, a vision for the appointed time, God with us, a new heaven and a new earth, and a branch from the tree of David — the remnant gathered. We can believe that Jesus heard this cosmic music as he distilled his huge message to the disciples.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

Distilling the message of being faithful, Jesus seeks a way to teach his disciples: Do not give up! Do not lose hope! Perhaps Jesus, knowing the scope of God's abundance says, to himself, "Ah, here it is: a story about a stubborn judge and a woman who does not give up hope."

**Theme: Pray Hopefully and Constantly**

**Before:** Bring a couple of scarves for costumes. One scarf can be the head scarf for the woman in the story. The other can go across the shoulders of the child playing the judge. You will also need paper and crayons.

**Beginning:** Ask the children what they think would happen to their bodies if they ate breakfast this morning and then never ate anything ever again? What do we need to do to stay healthy? (We need to eat good foods every day.) Jesus wanted his friends to understand that we also need prayer. So he told them this story.

**Praying:** God who loves us, help us to remember to ask for what we need and to not give up no matter how hard it might be. Amen.

**Story:** Once there was a woman who needed something important. It was so important that she asked again and again. A big powerful man, called a judge, could get that house for her, but he would not listen to her. She would come to the place where the big powerful man was and say: "Please listen to me. I need this." The man would listen to her. "Send her away," he would say. Day after day she came. Day after day the man sent her away. Finally, one day, the judge said: "OK, already. You are bugging me. I will get you what you want if you will stop bugging me." Jesus said we should be like the woman, and not give up when we are praying for the help we need.

**Activity:** Let the children take turns acting out this story. One child can be the stubborn judge who keeps saying "No! I will not do what this woman wants." The woman keeps on finding new ways to get him to listen to her. Let each child who wants to do so play the part of the judge and the part of the woman.

**Activity:** Give the children paper and crayons and ask them to draw what is happening in the story. Be sure to have a drawing of the woman to put on the cross that was created and used from the Early Fall lessons.

**Getting Closure:** Ask the children to help you make a list of things we need: We need parents to take care of us. We need to have food to eat. We need to have times to play, etc. Then, tell them that these are the things we tell God about in our prayers. God knows we need these things, but God wants us to notice we need these things, too.

Let us use these things in our prayers today. (Insert the prayers below as you end your session.)

**Closing Prayer:** Loving God, thank you for listening to our prayers, and reminding us that we need to ask you for what we need. Today, we especially pray for \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.”

*Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

*© 2012 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 24**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: Luke 18:1-8a**

In the final 6 weeks of this Lectionary Year C, a firm and hopeful tone soars in Jesus' teachings in a rich symphony of themes. The background music of the Hebrew Scriptures holds the notes of the new covenant — a law written in our hearts rather than codified in legal structures — The Spirit poured out, a vision for the appointed time, God with us, a new heaven and a new earth, and a branch from the tree of David — the remnant gathered. We can believe that Jesus heard this cosmic music as he distilled his huge message to the disciples.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

Distilling the message of being faithful, Jesus seeks a way to teach his disciples: Do not give up! Do not lose hope! Perhaps Jesus, knowing the scope of God's abundance says, to himself, "Ah, here it is: a story about a stubborn judge and a woman who does not give up hope."

**Theme: Pray Hopefully and Constantly**

**Before Class:** If the children are keeping journals, the first activity suggested in this lesson would be a good journal activity. If they are not, bring paper and pencils. You will need copies of the scripture for today or enough Bibles for each child to be able to read along.

**Beginning:** Tell the children to keep in mind, as we read the story today, that women had no rights in Jesus' time. We can listen to the story Jesus told his disciples and see if we can figure out why he told them that story.

**Opening Prayer:** Loving God, help us to hear what you have put in this story for us, here, today. Open our ears to hear your word. Amen.

**The Story: Luke 18:1-8a** Invite children to read the passage for today. You can have one read the whole thing, or invite them to each read one sentence.

**Questions:**

- I wonder what surprised you about our reading today? I wonder what questions may have come up for you?
- I wonder why the woman kept going back to the judge? (Remember that women had no rights. Perhaps she was desperate or perhaps she was courageous, but she did not give up.)
- I wonder what the woman might have needed? (Perhaps her opponent was someone trying to take her house away from her. Perhaps it was a lawsuit. What do you think it might be?)
- I wonder what this story tells us about being persistent? (Sounds like Jesus is telling us to keep on praying when we need something.)

**Activity:** Invite the children to brainstorm with you the types of things we want to hold in our prayers. Some things may be thank you prayers for someone's getting well after having been

sick, for a class at school getting easier, for families and friends, for example. Then we can think about things we really need, not just want, but really need: a broken arm getting well, a subject in school we are having trouble with and need to understand better, for example. For help, you can use the categories of prayer found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 383.

*The Universal Church, its members, and its mission*  
*The Nation and all in authority*  
*The welfare of the world*  
*The concerns of the local community*  
*Those who suffer and those in any trouble*  
*The departed (with commemoration of a saint when appropriate)*

Give the children a bit of time and adequate privacy to write at least one thing they want to be praying for in the next weeks. Tell them to either write it in their journals, or write it on the piece of paper you provide so they can take that piece of paper with them and keep referring to it at home.

**Getting Closure:** Gather in a circle. Tell the children you are going to tell them of something you had been praying for that you see God's help having come to you. Then ask the children if any of them have had an experience they want to share of something they had needed and then saw they were getting.

If you have time, you can invite the children to offer prayers in each of the six categories above. After a child names something, invite the group to say, "Lord, hear our prayer."

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, thank you for helping us remember to bring what we need to you. As we pray, give us a sense of your presence, and remind us that we are always with you and you are always with us. Amen.

---

## **Luke 18:1-8a**

18Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ' <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

*Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

*© 2012 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.*

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 24**  
**Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Scripture: Luke 18:1-8a**

In the final 6 weeks of this Lectionary Year C, a firm and hopeful tone soars in Jesus' teachings in a rich symphony of themes. The background music of the Hebrew Scriptures holds the notes of the new covenant — a law written in our hearts rather than codified in legal structures — The Spirit poured out, a vision for the appointed time, God with us, a new heaven and a new earth, and a branch from the tree of David — the remnant gathered. We can believe that Jesus heard this cosmic music as he distilled his huge message to the disciples.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

Distilling the message of being faithful, Jesus seeks a way to teach his disciples: Do not give up! Do not lose hope! Perhaps Jesus, knowing the scope of God's abundance says, to himself, "Ah, here it is: a story about a stubborn judge and a woman who does not give up hope."

**Theme: Pray Hopefully and Constantly**

**Before:** You will need copies of the scripture for today or enough copies of the Bible. The Hebrew Scriptures (Track 1) for this season are so rich; you may want to include reading them in your session. You will also want to have copies of the Book of Common Prayer or copies for everyone of the "Devotions for Families and Individuals" section of the BCP, paper, and pens.

**Beginning:** Invite the group to think of a time that they hung in there, praying constantly and hopefully, for what may have seemed a long amount of time, and then realized their prayer had been answered.

**Opening Prayer:** Gracious God, we thank you for your presence and your love as we persistently come to you with petitions and thanksgivings. Guide us in our time today as we discover more about you and our prayers. Amen.

**The Scripture: Luke 18:1- 8a** Invite someone to read the passage and then sit in quiet for a few moments.

**Questions:**

- I wonder what stood out for you in this passage?
- What is remarkable about the woman in this story? (Her courage, her tenacity, her insisting on being heard in a society that allotted women no rights.)
- Do you think Jesus is comparing the judge to God? Why? Why not? (The judge does hear and does change his mind. Yet, surely God is more accessible to the woman than the judge was. And if even this cruel judge can change his mind, so much more would we expect God to offer a different face than we expected.)
- Why do you think Jesus thought his disciples needed to hear this story? (Perhaps he wanted his disciples to believe that they could pray ceaselessly and not lose heart.)

- What was the prayer in this story? (For justice; a cause we believe God calls us to notice.)
- I wonder what might change when we pray?
- When what we pray for is not granted in the way we wanted, what might that mean?
- I wonder how we might change when we pray ceaselessly? How does God use our tenacity and our hope?

**Option:** The Hebrew Scripture appointed for today (for Track One) is Jeremiah 31:27-33. Read verse 33, which Jesus and possibly his disciples would have known, for insight into the Gospel.

**Questions for Jeremiah 31:27-34:**

- Since "I will be their God" has been the promise and "they shall be my people" the assurance, what insight does this passage provide? (Could it be that our God is as accessible as Jesus is trying to show his disciples?)
- I wonder what this might mean for us today?

**Getting closure:** Invite the group to reflect on prayer in their own lives. If they are not familiar with the *Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families* (Book of Common Prayer, pages 136-140) you might want to point these out for their use. If you have time, pass out paper and pens and invite them to create a prayer list of people, concerns, thanksgivings, etc. that they can keep at home to help in their prayer time. Suggest that the group keep notes, at home, for their eyes only, of things they are noticing about themselves that are changing as a result of consistent prayer.

**Closing prayer:** Thank you, God, for your assurance that you choose to be our God and claim us as your people. Help us to be prayerful and keep you close as we walk this journey. Amen.

**Luke 18:1-8a**

18Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ' <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

*Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

© 2012 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.