

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.”

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