

## Family Worship Guide – Week 46

### MEMORIZE

Luke 18:7-8 – “And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

### READ

Read Luke 18:1-8.

Jesus’ parables can sometimes seem confusing at first glance. When reading the one He told in these verses, you can be left wondering why He is comparing God to an unrighteous judge. Certainly God is the ultimate Judge, but He is also most certainly righteous. However, by Jesus showing that even an unrighteous judge can be convinced to give justice when bothered enough, He reveals how much more God, as the perfectly righteous judge, will grant justice to His children through their persistent prayers. The intended call to response, then, is to simply pray to Him, ask Him and trust Him to answer.

#### Questions:

- How is God like the unrighteous judge in Jesus’ parable?
- How is God not like the unrighteous judge?
- How are we to be like the widow in the parable?

**Bottom Line:** God faithfully answers our persistent prayers.

### SING

As we pray for God to send out laborers, we can also be reminded of God’s mighty power. He is the One who saves. He is the One who can wash away our sins. This week as we worship together, sing Joyful (The One Who Saves). Beethoven wrote the melody for the verses in 1785. In 1910 Henry van Dyke added lyrics to the verses. In 2010 Brenton Brown and Jason Ingram took the song and made an arrangement of the beautiful song and added a chorus. Let’s sing this together.

Visit our website for a link to this song: [www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html).

### SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship Him together.

#### Preschool

- Before you begin, open your Bible to Luke 18:7-8 and have your cell phone nearby.
- Read the verses to you preschooler.
- Now, make a pretend call with your cell phone. After you have finished your “conversation,” tell your child that we use the phone to talk to or communicate with our friends or family. However, we don’t need a phone to talk to God. We can pray anytime or anywhere and prayer is communicating or talking with God.
- Tell them God hears our prayers. We may not be able to call God on the telephone or send Him a letter, but prayer is just as real as a phone call. Why should we pray? Because it makes our relationship with God stronger. Could you imagine trying to have a best friend without talking with them? God is so good and will help us when we are happy, sad, sick, or even when we’re in trouble. God will give us wisdom, strength and understanding if we only ask Him. When we pray our relationship with God grows.
- God loves us so much and He is so good! That’s why God sent His only son Jesus from heaven to earth to save us from our sins/bad choices. God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. Because of Jesus, we can pray to God whenever we want. He is always near.
- Let’s pray together and thank God for sending Jesus to earth so that He could always be near to us.

### Children

- Start off by asking your child what they know about prayer—why do we do it, what happens when we pray, what should we pray for? After some discussion, read the passage (Luke 18:1-8).
- After reading the story, emphasize that the judge in this story is unrighteous—ask your child if they understand what unrighteous means (sinful, wrong, unfair, not pleasing to God).
- Ask your child what this unrighteous judge does when the widow first comes to him (he turns her away). What happens after she keeps coming back again and again asking for the same thing (he listens and honors her request and gives her justice)?
- Although this judge is not righteous he gives justice to the widow because she is persistent (explain that persistent means we keep bringing the request to him, we don't give up, we repeat it continuously).
- Ask your child what this passage says about God giving justice to the elect, who are his children (he gives them justice).
- Ask your child if God is similar to the unrighteous judge. God is like the righteous judge because he answers our prayers, but he is better than the unrighteous judge because he doesn't just give us everything we want, he does what is best for us and what brings him most glory.
- Explain that we can trust God to answer our prayers and do what is best. Remind them that in this passage Jesus is telling us not just to pray, but to pray persistently, trusting that God will answer when we do.
- Pull out some paper and markers and have your child make a list of 4-5 things they can be praying about. Meanwhile, craft your own list.
- After a few minutes talk through the list with your child and share your list with them. Commit to pray for these things together as a family. Display these lists on the refrigerator or somewhere visible to the whole family. As you see the Lord answer the prayers, take some time to acknowledge this and rejoice over these answered prayers and write over the top of the prayer item “God is faithful.”

### Students

- As you prepare for this time of family worship with your student keep in mind the stage of life that they are in. Critical thinking is both a new ability and an emphasized skill in their daily lives (e.g. interpreting poetry in an English class). In addition to this, in our culture there is constant skepticism when it comes to those whom you can trust. This same perspective was prevalent in Jesus' day as well. Begin the time by asking your student(s) to write down one word that would describe their spiritual lives. After this ask them whom they can trust in different areas of their lives (e.g. school, an athletic team, those in their small groups). Ask them if it is hard for them to trust people around them and why. Now, read Matthew 18:1-8 together.
- Point out that Jesus uses the term “unrighteous judge” to describe one who eventually brings justice, and then to describe how much more God will bring justice for those who are “elect.” Ask your student(s) how they would answer a friend who asks: “How do you know that God is trustworthy?” (Through answered prayer, fulfilled prophecies, Christ's fulfilled promises). Now, ask them what God's justice is dependent upon. The point is that God's justice comes for those who are His children (His elect). The way in which Jesus emphasizes His point is with the last question in the passage, “Will He find faith on earth?” The justice He promises is guaranteed to come, but it is promised to the faithful. Now have your students share what word they used to describe themselves earlier. Certainly, many words could be used here, but ask them if the word “faithful” would apply to them. In Jesus' time on earth and in ours we often look around at the faults of those around us. Here God is challenging us to see His faithfulness and evaluate our own. End your time by asking each other if there are areas in your lives where you want to be more faithful, and then pray specifically for one another in regard to those areas in need of improvement.

