

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

*The Widow and the Unfit Judge:
Praying and Not Losing Heart*
Luke 18:1-8

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the “Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study”. That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session “Background” located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day’s study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.
2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)
3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God’s will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Ask a child or youth to say Luke 11:9-10. This may be read, but will be very meaningful if memorized ahead of time.

Bible Study Leader:

Make copies of the diagram *How much more* which is given at the end of the Worship Time Session. You may also use a white board or large piece of paper to make a visual presentation of this concept.

Worship Time Leader:

Have the child or youth repeat Luke 11:9-10 as an introduction to the Worship Time. Again, this will be very meaningful if memorized ahead of time.

Music Sources:

Come, Now is the Time to Worship, *The Worship Hymnal* #30; CCLI #2430948

Sweet Hour of Prayer, *The Worship Hymnal* #429; CCLI #32273 Public Domain

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, *The Worship Hymnal* #154; CCLI#27714 Public Domain

1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

The Widow and the Unfit Judge: Praying and Not Losing Heart

Focal Text

Luke 18:1-8

Background Text

Luke 17:20—18:8

Main Idea

Placing emphasis on prayer provides encouragement for remaining faithful and not losing heart in facing life's challenges.

Question to Explore

When the Son of Man comes, will he find that you have faith?

Teaching Aim

To lead your church to identify how greater attention to prayer could encourage you to grow in your faith.

First thoughts:

Sing **Come, Now is the Time to Worship**, *The Worship Hymnal* #30; CCLI #2430948

Ask a child or youth to read or say the following verse.

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11: 9-10

The question to explore today is “When the Son of Man comes, will he find that you have faith?” This is a powerful question and reminder to us that we should live each day as if we expect Jesus to come. We want to be about those things which honour and please Him. One of the most important of those is to be in prayer. Our lesson today calls us to fervent, constant, continual prayer. How do we do that with our busy lives?

Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

The Widow and the Unfit Judge: Praying and Not Losing Heart

Focal Text

Luke 18:1-8

Background Text

Luke 17:20—18:8

Main Idea

Placing emphasis on prayer provides encouragement for remaining faithful and not losing heart in facing life’s challenges.

Question to Explore

When the Son of Man comes, will he find that you have faith?

Teaching Aim

To lead your church to identify how greater attention to prayer could encourage you to grow in your faith.

Introduction to your personal study:

Those who teach teachers how to prepare for leading a Bible study always say that you begin with prayer. They suggest that after you have completed teaching one study, you think of what has been taught, what student needs have been expressed and what the topic for the next study will be. Then before you sit down to actually prepare the lesson, you pray for your students by name. Beginning to prepare the lesson several days before you are to teach gives you an opportunity to listen to what the Lord tells you about the lesson, but also about how it applies to each one of your students. Today’s lesson of the importance of prayer is one which needs that kind of preparation. If you are preparing this lesson only a few hours before you are to teach, consider how

important this concept is and ask the Lord to help you apply it the next time you teach. If you still have time left to pray for your students by name, do so. Right now!

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Once again there are two main characters in the parable told in Luke 18:1-8 which is often titled The Parable of the Persistent Widow.

The widow brings a claim to the judge. She asked for justice against an adversary. We are not told the nature of the claim.

Widows were very vulnerable in New Testament society. Since girls married as young as 13, widows were sometimes not very old when their husbands died. Their condition, however, was from that point on, one with little hope. The Greek word for widow (chera) means “forsaken” or “left empty” and this certainly is descriptive of the widow in the parable.

“In many instances Greek widows were not allowed to remarry and were normally faced with two alternatives. They could return to their family of origin if the original purchase price were refunded, or they could elect to remain in the husband’s family in a very subordinated status! They were mistreated by the socially powerful and even sold as slaves for debt, though the Romans did legislate laws for their protection” (Jones, P. R., *The Teaching of the Parables*, Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1982, p. 244).

To what extent these realities of the Greek culture affected Jewish women we can not be sure since even the Old Testament spoke strongly of the need to protect the widows and orphans. Isaiah 10:2 says, **“Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights, and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.”**

Ezekiel 22:7 speaks equally strongly **“In you they have treated father and mother with contempt; in you they have oppressed the alien and mistreated the fatherless and the widow.”**

It was dangerous to oppress the widow because God is her champion as seen in Psalm 68:5 **“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”**

Some benevolence was organized for widows from tithes (Deuteronomy 14:29; 26:12) and gleanings from the field as in the case of Ruth (Ruth 2:2).

“Nonetheless, it may be that the clothes required of Jewish women reflected their low social esteem (Genesis 38:14; 19). The clothes of mourning were worn for all of life on the ancient principle that marriage is not dissolved by death. No bracelets or earrings or rings or ornaments (garments of gladness) were acceptable. The fact that widows wore a virtual uniform means that the judge in the parable knew quite well that the woman was a widow and yet he did not care” (Jones, p. 244).

Emily is the delightful character in L.M. Montgomery’s series of a child growing into a young woman who loves to write both prose and poetry. In *Emily Climbs*, she expresses an important reality (Montgomery, L.M. *Emily Climbs*, Toronto: Bantam Books, 1983; originally published in 1925). “Everything is so lovely – ‘the eye is not satisfied with seeing nor the ear with hearing’. Sometimes I think it really isn’t worth while to try to write anything when everything is already so well expressed in the Bible. That verse I’ve just quoted for instance – it makes me feel like a pigmy in the presence of a giant. Only twelve simple words – yet a dozen pages couldn’t have better expressed the feeling one has in spring” (p 162).

Emily is right that the Bible is full of beautiful language, meaningful sayings and descriptive character analysis. Luke quotes Jesus describing a man in Luke 18:2. In sixteen short words, Jesus says all we need to know to have a clear picture of a scoundrel. “He said, ***‘In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.’***”

There was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. This judge had no boundaries placed on his behaviour because of a desire to please God and obey His rules and he had no boundaries placed on his behaviour because of a desire to please or gain the admiration of his fellow man.

In the culture of the day this man may have gained his position through bribery. There may have been no salary and he made his money by hearing the cases of those who were able to pay the most for him to do so.

It was to this unscrupulous man that the vulnerable widow had to bring her case.

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Parables were such a common way of teaching in Jesus’ time that when he used this format, the disciples must have been listening for the teaching involved. This time, Jesus begins by clearly stating what he wants them to learn. They should always pray and not give up.

Earlier, in Luke 17:20-37, Jesus had taught about the coming of the Kingdom of God. This was not an easy-to-understand concept. First, he spoke of the Kingdom of God

within one. The disciples were still hoping for and really expecting that Jesus was about to form his earthly kingdom and that they would have a place, an honourable place, in it.

He follows this with a description of people running after those who announce the coming Kingdom and in verse 24 says ***“For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.”***

This dramatic picture is followed by the words, ***“But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.”***

Verses 26-37 are dramatic pictures of sinful times of the past in the days of Noah and Lot. Jesus says that level of sin will be present on the day the Son of Man is revealed. A dramatic gathering together of the redeemed will take place immediately.

Just as these words bring both hope and anxiety to today’s readers, they must have filled the disciples with that same hope and anxiety. They had a question, ***“Where, Lord?”*** They must also have wanted to ask, as men have asked through the centuries, “When, Lord?”

From that dramatic passage Jesus moves to the Parable of the Persistent Widow and he begins by telling them they should always pray and not give up.

That message is as fresh and clear to us today as it was to the disciples. Pray always and don’t give up.

Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, snow and ice storms in areas where they generally do not occur, corruption, financial disaster, seemingly unprecedented sexual immorality, life in virtual reality more real to some than reality – we live in a time when we think it may be time for the second coming of Christ. Some long for it; others hope it will be delayed as more and more people are being reached with the gospel.

And Jesus would say to us, ***“Always pray and don’t give up.”***

To demonstrate the persistence to which he refers, he tells the story of a widow who kept coming to a judge with the plea, ***“Grant me justice against my adversary”*** (verse 3).

The judge refused to help her. She most likely had no money to bribe those who would gain his attention for her. But she returned again and again until the judge said to himself, ***“Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!”***

In due course, the judge relents, not because he is a reformed character, but because “this widow keeps bothering me” and “so that she won’t keep on coming to me forever and wearing me out.” The thought of the woman battering him continually is more than

he wants to endure. Perhaps he is concerned with his public image though that does not seem likely given that he doesn't fear God or care about men.

Jesus explained the teaching by saying, ***“Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly”*** (verse 6-8a).

To understand the teaching here, we must use a comparison of “how much more”.

David Wenham in ***The Parables of Jesus*** sets it out this way

<p>If an unrighteous judge faced with the persistent cry of a widow in whom he has no interest responds eventually and vindicates her</p>	<p>How much more</p>	<p>God in his righteousness faced with the persistent cry of his chosen ones will respond and vindicate them quickly</p>
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(Wenham, D., *The Parables of Jesus*, Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1989, p. 187).

The parable on the whole is a call to persistent prayer, and particularly to prayer for the Lord's coming.

Luke ends his section with Jesus' question, ***“However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”***

If we pray for the Lord's return, it is incumbent upon us to do all we can to ready ourselves and others for that return. His words in Luke 17 leave no doubt that once he has returned there will be no time for putting things in order. There will be no time to decide to accept Christ as Saviour. There will be no time to share Christ with our spouse or friend. Perhaps some of the most chilling words in all of literature are found in verse 34 ***“I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left.”***

To pray for the Lord's return is to be a fervent pray-er for the salvation of the world – all of the world. Our home church sessions have a section in the worship time entitled “Praying for the World”. Each week a brief description of a pressing need around the world is given. This is not just a time filler. This is an attempt to educate ourselves on needs around the world and to commit to praying about those needs. Some home churches may choose to print out the prayer needs given and ask members to continue praying throughout the week.

Jesus asked if upon his return he would find faith on the earth. Will he? Each year Christian countries count fewer and fewer faithful believers although the Gospel is being spread in countries heretofore closed to hearing about Jesus.

Will he find faith in our home? Will there be clear evidence that God's word is read and loved? Will children be taught to pray daily? Will our worldly goods be spent to alleviate suffering and bring salvation to those who have never heard?

Jesus asks us today, "When I come, will I find faith in your heart?"

Remember the story of Jesse Morales who when he was dying of ALS asked "If you were to live with the perspective that today could be your last day on earth, what would you do to make a difference in the kingdom of God?" (Lesson 10-30-11)

That is what Jesus meant when he asked "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

This is an intense passage. You will want to encourage a deeper prayer life focused on preparing oneself and others for eternity.

For Personal Reflection:

- 1. What have I learned from this study?**

- 2. What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

- 3. What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

The Widow and the Unfit Judge: Praying and Not Losing Heart

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the ***Focal Text*** in their Bibles. Also, share with them the ***Main Idea*** to be learned from the Scriptures, and the ***Questions to be Explored*** by the group.

Focal Text

Luke 18:1-8

Background Text

Luke 17:20—18:8

Main Idea

Placing emphasis on prayer provides encouragement for remaining faithful and not losing heart in facing life's challenges.

Question to Explore

When the Son of Man comes, will he find that you have faith?

Teaching Aim

To lead your church to identify how greater attention to prayer could encourage you to grow in your faith.

Connect with Life:

Open with these remarks: Remember the story of Jesse Morales who when he was dying of ALS asked "If you were to live with the perspective that today could be your last day on earth, what would you do to make a difference in the kingdom of God?"

Today's lesson about praying and preparing for the second coming of Christ leads to a renewed commitment to prayer.

Guide the Study:

Continue: This parable is also known as the parable of the persistent woman. It is a companion to the one on the friend at midnight (Luke 11:5-8). We will consider that parable during the worship time.

This parable is found only in Luke.

Have someone read the complete passage – Luke 18:1-8

From the “Teacher Preparation” material, discuss the condition of widows in New Testament times.

Have three different persons read Biblical teachings about treatment of widows:

Isaiah 10:2

Ezekiel 22:7

Psalms 68:5

Have someone read the description of the judge in verse 2.

Urge opinions on this: What kind of mental picture does one have of the judge after hearing these few words?

Now ask: What does Jesus tell his disciples is the purpose of this parable? (Always pray and not give up, verse 1)

Refer to the teachings in Luke 17:20-37 of the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Briefly summarize these since this would be an entire study on its own.

The Kingdom of God is within one.

The disciples were expecting an earthly kingdom .

There will be many people who talk about the coming kingdom and lead people astray.

Jesus predicted his suffering and rejection.

When Jesus comes the second time it will be to a world filled with sin comparable to the sin present in Noah’s day or in Lot’s day.

Jesus does not answer the questions of where or when, but he does say that the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

Refer again to the purpose of the parable – always pray and don't give up.

Seek a response: What does the widow do to get the judge's attention? (Returns again and again to ask for justice)

Add: Why does the judge finally give attention to her case? (She kept bothering him; she was wearing him out)

Have someone read verses 6-8a.

State: God is not like the unjust judge. This is not a comparison of God to the judge. Instead, it shows the contrast between God and the unfair judge.

Use the diagram given in the material. You can make copies from the copy given at the end of the Worship Time or you can draw the diagram on a white board or piece of paper. **This is an important teaching tool.**

Encourage a brief discussion: How does God respond to the persistent cry of his chosen ones?

Have a different person read Luke 18:8b.

Call for a discussion on what is meant by this verse. How does it make you feel?

Share: Jesus teaches us to be persistent in prayer. He teaches that even though the second coming of Christ is delayed that we should not give up waiting and anticipating it.

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Ask: How should we live if we are expecting Christ's return?

Follow up: What are practical things we can do this week to indicate that we anticipate that day?

Suggest the following if the group does not mention these:

Pray for lost friends and family members

Share the Gospel with at least one of those lost friends or family members

Examine the stewardship of our time and money – what is really important about how we are spending our time and money? What would not matter at all if Christ were to return today?

Confess sin.

Start a more consistent and persistent plan for prayer.

Close by asking someone to pray that each of us be faithful to these suggestions.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

The Widow and the Unfit Judge: Praying and Not Losing Heart Luke 18:1-8

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

David Wenham in *The Parables of Jesus* sets it out this way

<p>If an unrighteous judge faced with the persistent cry of a widow in whom he has no interest responds eventually and vindicates her</p>	<p>How much more</p>	<p>God in his righteousness faced with the persistent cry of his chosen ones will respond and vindicate them quickly</p>
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(Wenham, D., *The Parables of Jesus*, Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1989, p. 187).

Examine this diagram. Think about your prayer life. What is a reasonable expectation for a youth in terms of “persistent” prayer? Do you pray with your family at meal time? Would you be embarrassed to pray with a friend who had a problem? Do you pray about your school work? Have you a lost friend that you consistently pray will find salvation?

It is easier to believe that God will respond than it is to understand when God does not seem to “respond quickly”. Time for God is not measured as it is for us. God will respond “in his time” and it will be the “right time”. That’s a hard lesson to learn. Most adults struggle just as teens do with this concept!

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***The Widow and the Unfit Judge:
Praying and Not Losing Heart
Luke 18:1-8*****Beginning the Service:**

Sing these or other songs about prayer:

Sweet Hour of Prayer, *The Worship Hymnal* #429; CCLI #32273 Public Domain

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, *The Worship Hymnal* #154; CCLI#27714 Public Domain

Have the child or youth who read or said the following verse in the Gathering Time to repeat it as part of the preparation for worship.

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

Offering:**Praying for the World:**

Hadassah sits in her one-room, mud house located in the slums of Addis Ababa. She boils coffee and cares for her three small children. She, like thousands of women in the city, made the desperate choice to earn her livelihood by selling her body.

Prostitution in Addis Ababa is common and widespread, creating a huge culture of women who feel ashamed and unloved. But Hadassah has escaped. She began to listen to stories from the Word and her heart gradually became softer to the truth. She recently left the prostitution business and has begun the journey of healing and learning to trust. Ask God to prepare the way for her as she begins her new life.

Pray that God will provide for her family and protect her from returning to the street. May Hadassah, and the thousands of prostitutes she represents, know the love and comfort of their heavenly Father.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

The Friend at Midnight How Much More God Gives Luke 11:5-8

A companion parable to the parable of the persistent widow is found in Luke 11:5-8. It can be titled "The Friend at Midnight".

It, too, emphasized the importance of persistent asking. In this story, a man has a visitor who arrived late at night. The culture of the day would indicate that this visitor must be fed. There were no fast food restaurants where he might have eaten before he arrived. He would expect to be fed at his friend's house. But there is no bread in the house. The householder goes to his friend/neighbour and asks for three loaves of bread in order to feed the visitor. It is midnight which in any culture is not an appropriate time to go to a friend's house to borrow something. The man is really caught in quite a predicament. He can refuse to feed the hungry visitor or risk offending his neighbour. He made his choice and went to the neighbour's home. He asked for three loaves of bread – these were small loaves only the size of a stone and three would be needed to feed the visitor.

The friend, however, refuses his request saying that his door is locked and his children are asleep. Houses in Israel, especially in rural areas, were small, consisting of one room used as sitting room, dining room and bedroom. The one door was barred at night using a wooden bar through rings on both door and wall. Mats were spread out and the family slept in a row on the floor. Under such circumstances it would not be easy to get up and find the needed article. The neighbour preferred to go on sleeping even though his family had probably already been disturbed by the knocking on the door or the calling out of the friend. In fact, the houses all around may have been disturbed as well.

The next-door neighbour did not go home, but kept on asking and it was this persistent asking which led the man to give him the three loaves.

Jesus says in the parable, ***“I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness, he will get up and give him as much as he needs”*** (Luke 11: 8).

As we saw in the story of the persistent widow, we again see the contrast between the response of the neighbour and God. It is another example of *How Much More* God will give than any earthly person. Unlike the neighbour, God is not adverse to our requests being given at midnight. God will answer our prayer of persistent believing that He will answer and give us as much as we need.

Prior to the teaching of the parable, Jesus has taught the disciples to pray in response to their request. Luke 11:1-4 contains a shorter version of what we know as the Lord’s Prayer than is given in Matthew 6: 9-14.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

He said to them, “When you pray, say

***‘Father, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come.***

Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation””.

The disciples were aware of Jesus’ own persistence in prayer. Although they were Jewish men who had prayed in the synagogue and even in the temple in Jerusalem, they were aware that there was a quality of intimacy and constancy about the prayers of Jesus that they had not experienced. They asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

The prayer that is recorded is very short. Yet it contains the great elements of prayer – acknowledgement of the nature of God; a desire for his Kingdom to come in our hearts; a need for and realization of God’s provision of daily food; forgiveness for sins and strength to resist temptation.

Then Jesus emphasized with the parable that this praying is a continual relationship with God. We are constantly acknowledging the holiness of God. We are always asking for His kingdom to live in our hearts and to be made manifest in the world. We give thanks regularly for the food and the house and the multitude of ordinary things that sustain our daily life. We ask over and over for forgiveness because we sin again and again. And we plead for strength to resist temptations of every kind.

Jesus ends this section of teaching with these words:

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your child, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?

Call to Commitment:

How much more do we need to be asking the Father to give to us? How much more is He willing to give than we are able to believe He will give?

Concluding the Service:

Copy as needed:

David Wenham in *The Parables of Jesus* sets it out this way

If an unrighteous judge faced with the persistent cry of a widow in whom he has no interest responds eventually and vindicates her	How much more	God in his righteousness faced with the persistent cry of his chosen ones will respond and vindicate them quickly
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