



Date: _____
Series: Building Christian Character
Winter Year 2, Lesson 41

Being Persistent in Prayer

Primary Scripture: Luke 11:5-10

Key Verse: Luke 11:9, “So I tell you to ask, and you will receive.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids often have a short-term view of their world. The focus of their attention is in the immediate, the here and now. Though this can be a wonderful blessing as they extract the joy from every moment, they need a long-term view as well. They need to see that if they persist in something over a long time, it has great value. Christian character requires such persistence, especially persistence in prayer. Persistence means that we never give up. God asks that we never give up seeking him and coming to him in prayer. Today's companion lesson in Kingdom Quest encountered Bartimaeus who was persistent in crying out to Jesus. We, too, can be persistent and come boldly to the throne of God's grace.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus' death and resurrection, he has given us status as sons and daughters of the King. When we approach God, we can do so confidently, for he is our Father through faith in his Son.

Jesus in us: Jesus is in the position of spiritual authority right now. Seated at the right hand of the Father, he intercedes for our every request since we are in faith with him.

Jesus through us: As we are persistent in prayer and seeking God, he answers us in ways that allow his kingdom to come through us to others.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Have the kids focus on the fact that they are in God's house at this time.

It is exciting to think that the songs and prayers given to the Lord in this house are also heard in the big house of heaven. When we sing and pray to the Lord, he hears us and it becomes part of the big party sounds of heaven. Let's invite God's presence as we pray to him, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Give a prayer of invocation, asking for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to be present at this time. Then continue with:

Many years ago, when Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States, it was a very difficult time in our country. He lived in the White House, where important people would come to see him and they would make plans for the country. They were trying to keep the country together during the Civil War. So many important people came to see the President that it became very difficult to get to speak with him.

Once, there was a soldier in the Union army. He was not very important since he was just a private. Something sad had happened in his family. His mother was very sick, and he needed to go home to take care of her. That seemed impossible because only the President could give him special permission to leave his duties as a soldier.

He decided to go to the White House anyway. The soldier waited for hours outside. All of the guards told him, "You will probably never have a chance to see the President."

Still he waited sadly in the yard, wondering what he should do next. A little boy came to him and asked him about his problem. The soldier explained that his mother was sick and he needed to go home to take care of her. He also admitted that it was impossible for an unimportant soldier like himself to get an audience with the important President of the United States.

The little boy smiled at the soldier and said, "Cheer up! I know a special way into the White House." At that, the little boy walked to a side door with the man following him. He walked right into the door and passed the guard. The guard did not stop the little boy or the soldier.

Through the halls of the White House the two walked. They passed important people and other soldiers. When they reached the room where the President was, they were told he was in an important meeting. The little boy said, "Tell him that I am here and I need to see him."

As soon as President Lincoln heard the message, he had the little boy and his soldier friend sent in. The little boy looked at President Lincoln and said, "Dad, this soldier needs your help. His mom is sick and he needs to go home. Can you help him?"

"Why, certainly, my son. Let me listen to his story and help him with his problem."

Why could the little boy walk right into the White House? It was because he was the President's son. Anyone walking with him was allowed to go in, as well.

It is the same with God. Do you know how we can go right to our Heavenly Father? It is because we, too, have his Son, Jesus who presents us before the Father. The Bible says that Jesus is the one who takes all of our requests to God when we call upon his name.

Today, as we continue our series on building Christian character, we want to remember to always pray and never give up. We know that Jesus, God's Son, takes our requests right to the Father, who hears and answers them. Let's worship him now in our songs.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Using the roving microphone, ask children about things that they might have given up praying for because they thought their prayers did no good. *(You may need to give an example of your own.)*

God wants us to keep on trusting and keep on praying. If we quit praying, it might be that we do not trust God. We need to ask for his forgiveness so that he will change us to trust him more and more. We will then keep praying and never give up.

Some other confession needs may arise. As these sins are confessed, emphasize that in Jesus we do have forgiveness and the power for change.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Optional props: a plastic scorpion or snake

Show the prop as you read or paraphrase Luke 11:11-13. Explain how our Heavenly Father desires to give us good gifts. As he does this, we show our thankfulness by returning gifts to him in our offerings.

Talk about the current mission project and how God uses the kids' offerings to give good gifts to others.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“You Can’t Guess What I’m Thinking”

Invite a child to the stage and ask him to look all around the room. He must pick out one object that he will remember in his mind. He can whisper that object to the game leader. Children from the audience will then try to guess what that object is. They may ask for clues using “yes” or “no” questions.

To make the game more effective, begin by only accepting three questions from the audience. See how difficult it is to guess when there are only three questions. Then allow ten inquiries. Continue as you give an example of perseverance – continuing to ask questions, knowing that you will finally get the answer. Then say:

This is like our theme for today. When we pray to God, we must continue to ask. God does not want to hold back his gifts. If we do not receive his gifts right away, it means God wants us to continue to pray. As we do so, sometimes our prayers change. We find that God may even answer them in even better ways.

Other children can come forward for the game depending on time.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

The Bible reading is a delightful illustration by Jesus that can be reenacted with audience participation.

Optional props: three loaves of bread or three Twinkie

Invite a child to come forward and give the child a nightgown. As the story is told, this child will need prompting when to act sleepy, speak grumpily, and when to give in. It is even more fun with three loaves of bread or three Twinkies. (*This kind of midnight snack the children can relate to.*)

Read Luke 11:5-10, emphasizing Luke 11:9. Then explain the points of comparison.

God is not reluctant or grumpy. Since he is good, how much more will he give answers to our prayers as we continue to pray? Even this old, grumpy neighbor finally gave in through persistence. How much more eager is God to answer our prayers?

As we pray in the name of Jesus, we call on him who gave his life for us so that we can be saved.

Romans 8:32 says, “God didn’t spare his own Son but handed him over to death for all of us. So he will also give us everything along with him.”

Application:

Refer to *Tell Me the Promises*, by Joni Eareckson Tada and Ron DiCianni. On page 13 is the story, “I Promise I Will Always Pray for You.” This story might be a bit long if read. The story may be paraphrased or adapted to fit the Bible event today. Order from: <http://www.campusi.com/bookFind/asp/bookFindPriceLst.asp?prodId=0891079041>.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids tell about a time God answered a prayer they persistently prayed a long time.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Offering:

- plastic scorpion or snake

The Power of the Cross:

- microphone

Bible Reading:

- nightgown
- three loaves of bread or three Twinkies
- the story “I Promise I Will Always Pray for You” on page 13 of *Tell Me the Promises*, by Joni Eareckson Tada and Ron DiCianni—order from:
<http://www.campusi.com/bookFind/asp/bookFindPriceLst.asp?prodId=0891079041>

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