

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 16 March 25

TITLE:	The persistent Widow / Pharisee and Tax Collector. Luke 18:1-14
THEME:	Prayer should be persistent and honest.
AIM:	God is just and will act fairly towards us. We need to confess our failures

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

These parables are placed in a wider section of the gospel that is dealing with life in the Kingdom. Prayer therefore is at the heart of Kingdom living. The first deals with persistence and perseverance. If an unjust judge will provide justice for the vulnerable because he gets nagged, how much more will God respond to His children. He will bring justice, so don't give up! The second is all about honesty and not relying on our own goodness or works to please God. We must pray with a realisation that we are sinners not righteous!

WARM UP

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Ask who has ever done that?

Watch trailer for movie [Are we There Yet?](#) Discuss what qualities the children and the man showed?

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1:

- Ask: 1. What do you think you would never get tired of? (e.g.: eating pizza, playing Xbox, watching TV)
2. Why? What makes it so important in your life?
 3. Is there anything you thought you would never stop doing, but now have?

Key teaching point: We persevere with things we enjoy or are important to us. However, we change as we grow up. God's love for us is constant it does not change. We are always important to Him.

Activity 2:

4. Read the Parable of the Persistent widow. Luke 18:1-8
5. Get YPs to discuss what they think the parable means. Get feedback.
6. Why was the woman so determined?
7. Why did the judge eventually give in?
8. Is God like the judge, or is He different? If so, how?
9. Get YPs in pairs or threes to make up a summary sentence for the parable. Write it on a sheet of paper, stick them up around the room. Look at each others, are they similar?

Key teaching point: God is not like the judge who did not care about the woman. He only gave her justice because she was getting on his nerves! God loves His children and wants to see justice for them. He will be swift to answer our prayers if what we seek is just and Godly. NB: We still need to be persistent in prayer... God predicts a time when believers will fall away... This the time when God will bring Justice so we need to be ready! (v8)

Activity 3: Read Luke 18:9-14. then watch [Youth for Christ video](#)

Get YPs to complete these sentences and then discuss what they mean.

1. When we pray we must be... (Humble/ honest/ God centred)
2. When we pray we must not... (be proud/ compare ourselves to others/think we are good enough)
3. We must confess our... and not rely on our own.... (sin/ goodness etc)

Key teaching Point:

Our prayer must be honest and God centred. We must seek forgiveness for sin, recognising we get things wrong. If we focus on our own goodness we will not receive forgiveness. God wants us to be honest, not to pretend we are good enough. We will never be right with God if we think we are better than others or think we don't need forgiveness.

Activity 4: Clean mug dirty mug

What are the things that we do to make people believe we are nice and good?

What are the things that make us dirty inside?

What is Jesus most concerned about?

Key teaching point: We must ensure that our inner life is right before God, and that our thoughts, attitudes and motives are Godly. Then our outside will become cleaner. If we only focus on outward appearances then we are no better off than a dirty old mug with mould growing on the inside!

TAKEAWAY

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10 Stickers available

EXTRA INFO