

## The work of prayer

### Luke 18.1-8

Jesus tells a parable of a widow who repeatedly goes to a judge for justice. At first the judge does not care and refuses to listen, but the widow keeps returning to him. Due to her persistence, he eventually grants her request.

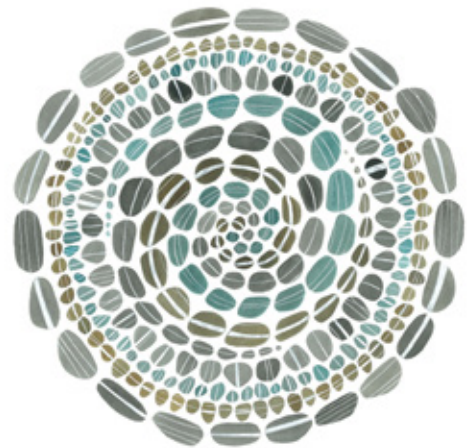
Now read **Luke 18.1-8** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Unlike the judge in the parable, God will always act justly. Prayer can sometimes feel like hard work and we can find it a struggle in our faith. If the unjust judge listens to and acts on the requests of a widow then how much more will God, who is just, listen to and act on our prayers?

# PERSIST

Do you have a hobby or skill that requires you to practise persistently – e.g. it could be music, or a sport, art, writing your first novel? What does practising involve, and what do you hope to achieve by it? How much time does it take up? (If you don't have something you practise yourself, you could ask someone who does.) Persistence is an important skill to learn. Think about how you could practise or be more persistent in praying. Put some effort into doing this and in a week or two's time, think about whether it has made a difference to your prayer life.



What do you see in this prayer walk mandala? Can you recall a time when you really persisted in prayer?

## Pray



The 'Examen' is a way to reflect prayerfully on each day in God's presence. Find the best time and place to do this each day either alone or with your family.

1. Be still and quiet; become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the events of the day thankfully.
3. Pay particular attention to how you felt at each moment.
4. Choose one thing from the day to use as a starting point for prayer.
5. Look toward tomorrow; where will God be?



Get a ball, or bat and ball, and see how long you can do a 'keepy-uppy'. If there are two of you, how long can you keep a rally going? How can you increase the number? What techniques can you develop to do this?

## DRAW



Draw a cartoon version of this week's Bible story. Start with six boxes on a piece of paper and draw one scene in each box. Think especially about the people's facial expressions in each scene. Don't forget speech or thought bubbles for each person too.



## LISTEN



Listen to and watch 'Faithful One'.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqK-UnsRTFl>  
 What images do you see and hear in this song of worship? What does it make you think about God? You might like to draw some of the images from the song as you listen and talk about it.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

**J**esus told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never give up. 'In a city, there was a judge. A judge who did not care about God. A judge who did not care about people. In that same city, there was a widow. A widow who kept asking the judge for justice.

'Again and again, the woman said to the judge, "You have not been fair to me. You must give me my rights."

'But the judge didn't want to, so every time he said, "No!"

'Again and again, the woman returned to the judge, demanding justice. Eventually, the judge thought, "I don't care what God thinks. I don't care what the people think.



But this widow will not leave me alone. I will see she gets her rights; otherwise she will keep on annoying me!"

'So,' Jesus said, 'if the bad judge will do this, then God will certainly give justice to his people. God's people cry out to him day and night and he will quickly answer them. He will always give them what is right.

'But,' he added, 'when the Son of God comes, will he find people, here on earth, who believe in him?'

Luke 18.1-8

## Did you know?

- Widows – women whose husbands had died – were often poor and neglected.
- Justice means being treated fairly and being given what should be yours

## Luke 18.1-8 (NRSV)

Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps

bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ' And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'