



hopekids

Four[Five- July 26

Bible Story: The Story of the Widow Who Would Not Give Up • *Luke 18:1-8*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.

Conversation Starter: What do you need to keep doing?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive
- Have a couple students be door greeters, a couple more help with communion in the big church and a few more to volunteer to stay and help with the littles once we finish in the elementary room.

I took out the activity time before the lesson, but it is available if you see fit.

Instead, spend this time playing games with the students or talking to them about how their week went.

This is the get to know your students time.

9:05/10:50 Leave for the Elementary Room

9:45/11:30 Leave for the Merge room

Communion

What You Do:

First - have one of the students pass out communion once everyone is seated.

Discuss communions and the importance of taking it and have one of the students pray.

Upside Down Life

What You Need:

- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Music player
- ☐ Upbeat music

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- In an open space in your activity area, place one set of colored cups up and the other set of colored cups down.

During the Activity:

- Divide the group into two teams: Team Up and Team Down.
- Explain the rules:
 - Players from both teams move simultaneously through the field of play.
 - Team Up flips any upside-down cup to be right-side up, and Team Down flips any right-side-up cup to be upside-down.
 - You can only flip one cup at a time.
 - You cannot “guard” cups or hold them; you must flip and move to the next.
 - Any cup knocked onto its side doesn’t count for either team at the end of the round.
 - When the music stops, all players must immediately freeze and step away from the cups.
 - Decide which team has more cups flipped their way at the end.
- Play a few rounds, each round being a few minutes each.

What You Say:

“That was intense! You couldn’t stop for a second because the other team was always working against you.

“In the story Jesus told, the widow kept asking, kept seeking, and kept bothering the judge for what she wanted. In the same way, we are to go to God with our needs and desires and keep asking, over and over and over. That doesn’t mean He will answer right away or even in the way we think is best. Sometimes God says, ‘Yes.’ Sometimes He says, ‘No.’ And a lot of times, God says, ‘Not yet.’ But no matter what, Jesus gives us permission to keep on asking for what we want. Jesus’ story encourages us to be persistent. Don’t stop. Don’t get discouraged. When you keep talking to God and talking to God and talking to God, you will grow closer to Him! **[Bottom Line] God’s kingdom grows when you pray and don’t give up.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-friendly time when you prayed for a long time about something. For example, you can share something like: “There have been things I’ve prayed about for years. It’s easy to wonder if God is listening. But then I remember this story. It reminds me that my job isn’t to figure out God’s timing; my job is to be persistent in my relationship with Him and keep bringing my requests to Him.”)

Please take time to Pray!

Ask:

- Why do you think Jesus told this story specifically to teach about not giving up in prayer?
- Why do you think Jesus chose a widow—someone who was often overlooked and didn’t have much power—as the hero of this story?
- What does the widow’s persistence tell us about what she believed?
- The judge in the story wasn’t motivated by justice, but by being worn out. What motivates God to answer our prayers? *(His love, goodness, and justice)*
- ***[Conversation Starter] What do you need to keep doing?***