

PRAYER

THE POWER OF PERSISTENTLY PUSHING THROUGH

Pushing Through

**Pray and don't
give up.**

TEACHING SUMMARY

In today's worship gathering, we'll be exploring a story of Jesus' interaction with a foreign woman who desired to see Him act on behalf of her child. We'll see the power of persistence in prayer on display.

In our groups today, we look at a parallel passage where Jesus tells a parable of a persistent widow who continually pleads for justice until the judge grants it.

God cares about what's going on in our lives and invites us to persistently push through in prayer until we see Him move!

ICEBREAKER

Which version of True Grit would you pick: Original with John Wayne or updated with Jeff Bridges?

SCRIPTURE

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1-8



LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. What is Jesus admiring in this widow?
2. Why does Jesus ask us to compare God to this unjust judge?
3. How would you describe the connection between persistent prayer and faith?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. What tends to prevent you from staying persistent in prayer?
5. How can you tell whether you're being faithfully persistent in prayer or demanding that God give you the outcome you want?
6. Jesus moves from the widow's long wait to saying God will bring justice "speedily." From your experience, how can something feel delayed and still be God acting at the right time?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. What kinds of things are worth never giving up praying about?
8. What could help you practice persistent prayer: a written prayer list, a daily reminder, praying with someone else, or something different?
9. Is there something or someone you'd be willing to commit to praying for persistently for the next month?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Jesus, teach us to pray, help us to trust. Give us grace to persist, even when it's hard. We trust your promises and your plans for us and those we love. Amen.

