



Persistence

Aim: To think about how easy or hard it is to get what you want, especially as a woman.

Outcomes: To learn that God wants us to always pray and never become discouraged.

Icebreaker:

Serve refreshments.

As the group has become established now everyone just chatted happily over drinks.

This was prepared as a back-up session in case the group member who had an activity for us to do didn't come. She did come but forgot the activity.

Unlocking life experience:

Any craft or food related activity -
With these conversation starters:

- ◆ Has anybody ever kept pestering you for something?
- ◆ How long did they go on?
- ◆ How did it make you feel?
- ◆ Did you give in to their requests?
- ◆ Have you ever pestered somebody to get what you needed?
- ◆ How long did it take?
- ◆ How did it make you feel?
- ◆ Did you want to give up?
- ◆ Did you get what you needed in the end?

We decorated cakes and biscuits left over from a previous session. Basically just put everything out (cakes, biscuits, icing, chocolate, decorations) and everyone did as much or little as they wanted. The conversation starters happened in the midst of other conversations but people definitely had experience of being pestered or pestering somebody else. It was interesting as they started to 'accuse' each other of pestering amongst themselves!



Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ:

Luke 18:1-8 Good News Translation (GNT)

The Parable of the Widow and the Judge

18 Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never become discouraged. ² “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. ³ And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her rights, saying, ‘Help me against my opponent!’ ⁴ For a long time the judge refused to act, but at last he said to himself, ‘Even though I don't fear God or respect people, ⁵ yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her rights. If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!’” ⁶ And the Lord continued, “Listen to what that corrupt judge said. ⁷ Now, will God not judge in favour of His own people who cry to Him day and night for help? Will He be slow to help them? ⁸ I tell

you, He will judge in their favour and do it quickly. But will the Son of Man find faith on earth when He comes?”



Releasing Life Changing Skills and Confidence:

Questions for discussion:

- Can you see connections between our stories and the Bible story?
- What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us in the story?

They understood the obvious connection between their pestering stories and the widow pestering the judge! Although the conversations were brief they grasped the message quite easily.

Continuing Reflective Cycles:

Activity

Ask participants to try doing something really difficult, like threading a needle with an eye that is only just big enough to take the kind of thread provided. You can choose something else appropriate to your group, like learning one verse of an unknown song. Make sure it is very challenging and only just possible — with persistence!



Encourage them to reflect on their experience and if you see them encouraging and supporting one another draw attention to it.

Further reflection

- ◆ What can we learn from the story?
- ◆ When is it hardest to keep on praying?
- ◆ Anything you want to remember from the session?

Outline Developed by Alison Adlum:
Unlock Burnley

