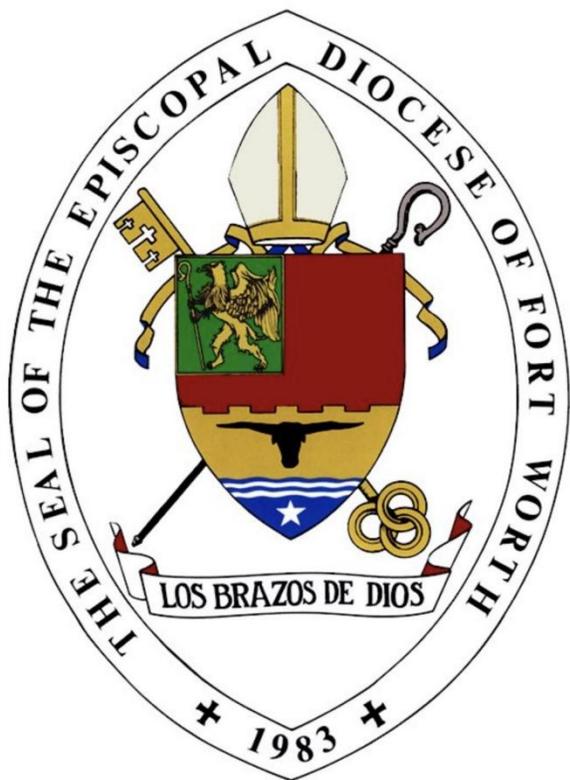


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**PROPER
24**

**Sunday from
October 16 to
October 22**

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Curriculum for Proper 24, Year C

From October 16 to October 22, Proper 24

Lectionary Texts:

Genesis 32:3-8, 22-30

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Genesis 32:3-8, 22-30

³ Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau. Esau lived in the land of Seir. It was also called the country of Edom.

⁴ Jacob told the messengers what to do. He said, "Here's what you must tell my master Esau. 'Your servant Jacob says, "I've been staying with Laban. I've remained there until now. ⁵ I have cattle and donkeys and sheep and goats. I also have male and female servants. Now I'm sending this message to you. I hope I can please you.'"

⁶ The messengers came back to Jacob. They said, "We went to your brother Esau. He's coming now to meet you. He has 400 men with him."

⁷ Jacob was very worried and afraid. So he separated the people who were with him into two groups. He also separated the flocks and herds and camels. ⁸ He thought, "Esau may come and attack one group. If he does, the group that's left can escape."

²² That night Jacob got up. He took his two wives, his two female servants and his 11 sons and sent them across the Jabbok River. ²³ After they had crossed the stream, he sent over everything he owned.

²⁴ So Jacob was left alone. A man struggled with him until morning. ²⁵ The man saw that he couldn't win. So he touched the inside of Jacob's hip. As Jacob struggled with the man, Jacob's hip was twisted. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go. It is morning."

But Jacob replied, "I won't let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will not be Jacob anymore. Instead, it will be Israel. You have struggled with God and with men. And you have won."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you want to know my name?" Then he blessed Jacob there.

³⁰ So Jacob named the place Peniel. He said, "I saw God face to face. But I'm still alive!"

Psalm 121

¹ I look up to the hills.

Where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD.

He is the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He won't let your foot slip.

He who watches over you won't get tired.

⁴ In fact, he who watches over Israel

won't get tired or go to sleep.

⁵ The LORD watches over you.

The LORD is like a shade tree at your right hand.

⁶ The sun won't harm you during the day.

The moon won't harm you during the night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from every kind of harm.

He will watch over your life.

⁸ The LORD will watch over your life no matter where you go,

both now and forever.

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

¹⁴ But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned. Don't give up what you are sure of. You know the people you learned it from. ¹⁵ You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. ¹⁷ By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.

4 I give you a command in the sight of God and Christ Jesus. Christ will judge the living and the dead. Because he and his kingdom are coming, here is the command I give you. ² Preach the word. Be ready to serve God in good times and bad. Correct people's mistakes. Warn them. Cheer them up with words of hope. Be very patient as you do these things. Teach them carefully.

³ The time will come when people won't put up with true teaching. Instead, they will try to satisfy their own longings. They will gather a large number of teachers around them.

The teachers will say what the people want to hear. ⁴ The people will turn their ears away from the truth. They will turn to stories that aren't completely true.

⁵ But I want you to keep your head no matter what happens. Don't give up when times are hard. Work to spread the good news. Do everything God has given you to do.

Luke 18:1-8a

18 Jesus told his disciples a story. He wanted to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said, "In a certain town there was a judge. He didn't have any respect for God or care about people. ³ A widow lived in that town. She came to the judge again and again. She kept begging him, 'Make things right for me. Someone is doing me wrong.'

⁴ For some time the judge refused. But finally he said to himself, 'I don't have any respect for God. I don't care about people. ⁵ But this widow keeps bothering me. So I will see that things are made right for her. If I don't, she will wear me out by coming again and again!'"

⁶ The Lord said, "Listen to what the unfair judge says.

⁷ "God's chosen people cry out to him day and night. Won't he make things right for them? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, God will see that things are made right for them. He will make sure it happens quickly.

"But when the Son of Man comes, will he find people on earth who have faith?"

Overview of Texts:

The lessons for today are all about persistence and perseverance. In the Old Testament lesson, we see Jacob wrestling with an angel of God and refusing to give up until he receives a blessing, despite what must be the excruciating pain of a dislocated thigh. This is a very physical example of being persistent with God. We aren't sure where the "man" comes from, but Jacob eventually realizes that he is wrestling with God and will not give up until he sees his request granted. Many times we find ourselves wrestling with God spiritually or emotionally and we must be persistent in petitioning God for resolution.

The Psalm shows us the other side of the coin and describes God's persistence in watching over us and his faithfulness in keeping us safe.

In the letter to Timothy, Paul ends with a warning that there will come a time when people will not put up with sound teaching, and instructs him to remain persistent in the preaching of the truth despite hardship or opposition.

Finally in our Gospel lesson, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow. The point is that, with enough pleading, even a judge who cares not for God nor shows favoritism to any person will finally grant what is being requested. If this is true, then how much more will God, who cares for his people, grant our petitions that we bring before him with persistence.

Our lesson today focuses on being persistent in prayer and how our prayer life is how we stay in communication with God.

Pre K- Kindergarten Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Paper and coloring materials.

Preparation: Familiarize yourself with the game "Mother May I" and have some creative ideas for movements.

Lesson:

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help.
- Read the Gospel lesson.
- Ask your students if they know what it means to be persistent. Explain it in terms they will understand (keep asking mom and dad for a cookie until they give you one). Ask them how often that approach actually works and how often it gets them in trouble.
- Explain to your students that God wants us to be persistent in our prayers and continually ask him for things we want. Ask them if they think they will always get what they want.
- Go back to the Gospel reading and point out that in verse 8, Jesus doesn't say that they will get what they want, but that God will make things right.
- Explain that, just like our parents won't always give us a cookie when we bug them for it, God doesn't always give us exactly what we want, but he knows what we need and will always set things right.
- Ask your students how many of them pray at home with their parents. Affirm those who do and positively encourage those who don't to ask their parents to pray with them.

Activity:

- Play a game (or six or seven) of Father (Mother) May I.
- Relate the game to the principle that we must keep asking God for what we want in order to get it; sometimes we get what we ask for and other times we are told something different.
- The point of the game is always to reach our Father and do what he asks.
- After they have played the game, have them think of one thing they wish to ask of God. Encourage them to choose something worthy, not a selfish desire. It is important that we make sure they understand that God is not their personal genie granting wishes. They need to pray for things that matter, like the needs of others or help for ourselves. When they have come up with a prayer, have them draw a picture of the thing for which they are praying. Help them write a caption of this prayer.

Closing Prayer: Lord's PrayerElementary Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Gloria Patri**Supplies and Preparation:**

Supplies: Paper and coloring materials.

Preparation: Familiarize yourself with the game "Mother May I" and have some creative ideas for movements.

Lesson:

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help.
- Read the Gospel lesson, but only verses 1-5 and make sure to leave out the sentence, "He wanted to show them that they should always pray and not give up."
- Ask your students what they think Jesus is trying to say in the parable.
- After this discussion reread the lesson in its entirety.
- Talk about how Jesus tells us to keep asking God for things we really want and then ask how this approach works when asking our parents for things. What is likely to happen if we keep asking over and over again for a cookie? (We may get in trouble for pestering.) What if we ask for something good like for our parents to pray with us or to read a book with us? (They will hopefully make time for these things.)
- Discuss how God wants us to continually pray and ask for what we want, but point out that in the lesson we are told that he will make things right, not always

give us what we want. Like our parents, God always knows what is best for us and knows exactly what we need. If we don't keep praying, we may never find out what God has in store for us or what God really wants from us.

Activity:

- Play a game (or six or seven) of Father (Mother) May I.
- Relate the game to the principle that we must keep asking God for what we want in order to get it; sometimes we get what we ask for and other times we are told something different.
- The point of the game is always to reach our Father and do what he asks.
- After they have played the game, have them think of one thing they wish to ask of God. Encourage them to choose something worthy, not a selfish desire. It is important that we make sure they understand that God is not their personal genie granting wishes. They need to pray for things that matter, like the needs of others or help for ourselves. When they have come up with a prayer, have them draw a picture of the thing for which they are praying. Help them write a caption of this prayer.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Junior High Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and Hail Mary

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Pencils and paper.

Preparation: Come up with the task explained in the activity.

Lesson:

- Have one of your students read the Gospel lesson.
- Ask your students if they have ever asked God for something and not received it. (This discussion could get very serious if there have been any major traumatic events.)
- Ask why they think God didn't give them what they asked for. Maybe it wasn't the right time, maybe God had something better planned (understand that "better" can have an eternal component that is not always discernable or appreciated in this present life), maybe they weren't asking for the right thing or for the right reasons.
- Ask why they think Jesus would tells us to be persistent in our prayers if God isn't going to grant them. You can leave this one unresolved.
- Ask your students what they think the most important part of any relationship is, be it boyfriend/girlfriend, parent/child, husband/wife, best friends, etc. The answer we are looking for here is communication. Discuss how if we don't communicate with someone we are in relationship with then the relationship will

suffer.

- Ask your students how many of them really take time to talk to their parents and if they would consider their relationship with their parents to be good. Ask if they truly believe that their parents want what is best for them.
- Explain that, regardless of how we feel about how much our parents want what is best for us, we can always know that God wants what is best for us.
- Our persistence in prayer will help us conform our will to God's and understand why we may not get what we ask for because it's all about communication.

Activity:

- Break up into teams of two.
- Come up with a relatively simple but multistep task (i.e. take a deck of cards and put them in order in some fashion).
- The goal is for one person on each team to get the other person to complete the task using a given mode of communication. Some teams cannot speak or write at all, only gestures can be used. Other teams can write using pencils and paper (relate this to e-mail or texting). Other teams can talk freely. Try to have at least one team assigned to each type of communication. If your class size makes this difficult, try leading the students as group through different tasks for each type of communication.
- When it is done discuss how easy or difficult the task was given the type of communication they could use.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Senior High Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and Hail Mary

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Pencils and paper.

Preparation: Come up with the task explained in the activity.

Lesson:

- Have one of your students read the Gospel lesson.
- Ask your students if they have ever asked God for something and not received it. (This discussion could get very serious if there have been any major traumatic events).
- Ask why they think God didn't give them what they asked for. Maybe it wasn't the right time, maybe God had something better planned (understand that "better" can have an eternal component that is not always discernable or appreciated in this present life), maybe they weren't asking for the right thing or for the right reasons.
- Ask why they think Jesus would tell us to be persistent in our prayers if God isn't

going to grant them. You can leave this one unresolved.

- Ask your students if any of them has a boyfriend or girlfriend or even a best friend. Ask how much time they spend talking or texting with that person.
- Ask what would happen if they all of the sudden stopped calling or texting or even talking to that person at school. Discuss how important it is to communicate with the people we are in relationship with. Ask if any of them have experienced the loss a relationship due to lack of communication.
- Talk about how this is why Jesus tells us to be persistent in our prayers and that in the gospel reading, even an unjust judge responds to the persistence of the widow. So, it only stands to reason that a God who is all-loving and all-just will respond to our pleas.

Activity:

- Break up into teams of two.
- Come up with a relatively simple but multistep task (i.e. take a deck of cards and put them in order in some fashion).
- The goal is for one person on each team to get the other person to complete the task using a given mode of communication. Some teams cannot speak or write at all, only gestures can be used. Other teams can write using pencils and paper (relate this to e-mail or texting). Other teams can talk freely. Try to have at least one team assigned to each type of communication. If your class size makes this difficult, try leading the students as group through different tasks for each type of communication.
- When it is done discuss how easy or difficult the task was given the type of communication they could use.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day