

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent, known as **The Sunday of the Judge**. This Sunday's parable (Luke 18:1-8) involves an unjust judge who refuses to hear a widow's plea. But because of the widow's persistence to be vindicated against her adversary, even this hard, godless judge gives in and conducts a trial. This parable assures us that God, our just and loving judge, will always hear the pleas of His children. But we learn, too, the need for perseverance in the Christian life.

The Bible teaches us to be persistent in our prayers. Praying is not a “magic wand” and sometimes prayers are not answered immediately. But God loves to do nice things for us. He also wants what is best for us and only He has the wisdom to know what that is. We must have faith in God that He always hears our prayers. Only He knows when and how our prayers will be answered, and He likes to hear us ask again and again! So we must continue to pray, pray, pray and never give up on His love.

A DEMONSTRATION LESSON ON PERSISTENCE

MATERIALS:

- Whipping cream
- Metal bowl
- Whisk
- Sugar (*optional*)

WHAT TO DO: Pour some heavy whipping cream into a cold metal bowl. Add three tablespoons of sugar, (*optional*).



SAY: All things worthwhile take persistence. If we're very persistent in our whisking, we can turn this cream into whipped cream! But it takes a lot of beating to make whip cream by hand. While we're working on that, we'll talk about persistence in our lives.

Let the children take turns whisking; Have an assistant hold the bowl so nobody spills it over. It takes about seven minutes to whip cream into cream by hand (and it must be cold first!). So, while kids take turn whisking, ask questions about how they can apply persistence to their lives.

Prompts:

Who is trying to improve on a sport?

Who is trying to improve in school?

Who is trying to get along better with a sister, brother or friend?

SAY: Has anyone asked for God's help with their sport, their schoolwork, or to build that relationship? (Allow children to respond) Let's ask him now!

Say a prayer that the children will realize that God wants to be part of their lives too, and he will teach us patience and persistence. By this point, if everyone has whisked hard, you ought to have whipped cream.

SAY: Look what we did with our persistence! Because we didn't give up, we now have whipped cream!

Optional: Give each child a plastic spoon to have a taste of the result of their persistence. Or save it for later and use to top a pie, pudding, Jello, or some other treat.