

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus exalts a widow who persistently petitions for her needs. The unjust judge's softening of heart dramatizes God's willingness to respond to our frequent prayers. Asking God for what we want and need will help us clarify what is really important. This week provides a good opportunity to review how your family lives and prays together.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** This week's lesson focused on persistence and prayer. Consider adding a new prayer time to your child's daily routine. Use this time to review the day and its highs and lows. Lead your child in prayers for family and friends, parents and teachers, our leaders, the weakest among us, and for yourselves.

**Promise (Grades K–1):** Ask your child to tell you about all the people who help your family. Have your child tell you the story of the woman who kept asking for help. Discuss the importance of asking for help when help is needed, and why God wants us all to ask for help. Look at the prayer book your child has made and promise to say the morning prayer together every day this week.

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** Children of this age do a lot of asking. To build on the experience of the lesson, talk about what family members ask for over and over again—toys, games, pets, or snacks. Talk about how Jesus wants us all to pray for what we need. This week is also a good time to commit to a family

prayer time once a day—mornings, mealtimes, or in the evenings. Ask your child to teach your family the five finger prayer he or she learned in class or include the petitions he or she wrote during the lesson.

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** This week's session helped your child distinguish between a *need* and a *want*. Your child learned to appreciate God's willingness to answer prayers. Talk about things your family needs and also talk about things your family may want. Ask your youngster about how Moses served as a mediator to help God's People. Ask your young person to tell the family what kinds of prayer are found in the Bible. Talk about why it is important to keep on praying.

**Visions (Grades 7–8):** This week's lesson pointed out the importance of being persistent in life and in prayer. The class looked at people who were persistent and at the results of their persistence. Your child learned how to be persistent in responding to situations in a Christian way. Talk about situations in your family that called for persistence—in school, at work, in sports, in relationships with others. Talk about ways your family can be persistent in your relationships with God and the Church.

### Pray Together

The Gospel for the week shows that God expects all to be persistent in prayer and to ask God for help. Set aside a few minutes each day for sharing family prayers of petition. After each petition, the whole family can respond: "Lord, hear our prayer."