

OPENING



Allow 5 minutes

- Welcome each child, and help children get acquainted in your group.
- Ask what kids remember about today's large-group lesson.
- Let kids share news or prayer requests, and pray with them.
- **SHARE**
Say: **Today we're learning not to give up when we pray. Turn to a friend and tell about something you've tried many times.** Allow time.

◀ The Point ▶

We pray without giving up.



Key Verse

"Never stop praying."
—1 Thessalonians 5:17

Fishy Business

YOU'LL NEED

gift bag • dowel stick • string • paper clip • stickers • scissors

1. EXPLAIN

Say: **I like it when things work out the very first time I try something. But that doesn't always happen. Sometimes I have to try again. Fishing is like that. Sometimes you don't catch a fish the very first time you try. What might you do if that happened?** Let children respond.

2. FISH

Ask the children to line up in front of the gift bag. Give the first child the dowel fishing rod. Sit behind the gift bag or have another leader do it. Let the children "cast" their lines into the bag, but don't put a "fish" (a sticker) on the line on the first try. Each time a child pulls back an empty line, say: **Don't give up! Try again.** After two or three tries, put your hand through the hole and use the paper clip to attach a sticker to the line. Repeat until everyone has a sticker.

3. DISCUSS

- **What makes people want to give up?**
- **Tell about something that made you want to give up.**
- **Why is it important not to give up when we pray?**

4. MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **God listens when we pray. He hears us praying. Sometimes he doesn't answer the way we want, but he's always listening. That's why ▶ we pray without giving up.**



Allow 10 minutes

Leader Tip

Prepare Ahead

Before kids arrive, create a fishing rod by tying a paper clip to one end of the string and tying the other end of the string to the dowel. Cut a hole in the back of the gift bag, and place the stickers inside.



Memory Maker



Allow 10 minutes

YOU'LL NEED Bible Memory Makers® • paper • cardboard • aluminum foil • paper towels

1. SIT

Have kids sit down, and give each child a Bible Memory Maker Doodler Crayon and a paper towel. Say: **Let's say the Key Verse, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, on our Doodler Crayon: "Never stop praying" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).** After you say the verse together, give kids a chance to say it individually.

2. MARK

Give everyone a piece of paper, and have kids each use a Doodler Crayon to make marks on their papers. Then have them try to wipe their papers clean with a paper towel. Next have kids make marks on a piece of cardboard and try to erase that. Finally, give kids the foil and have them try a third time. Let kids celebrate when they're able to wipe off the crayon marks from the foil.

3. DISCUSS

- **What made you want to keep trying or give up with this activity?**
- **What's something you try to do that's really hard?**
- **What can make talking to God hard sometimes?**

4. MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **Prayer is our way to talk with God. Even when we don't know exactly what to say, we can keep praying. God hears and answers, so ► we pray without giving up.**

5. SEND HOME

Have kids take home their Doodler Crayons.

Leader Tip

Prepare Ahead

Have enough pieces of paper, cardboard, and aluminum foil for everyone to have a piece of each.



Living Inside Out Every Day!



Allow 5 minutes

1

DISTRIBUTE

Give a copy of today's "Living Inside Out Every Day!" handout to each child. Say: **This paper has ideas for how you can live inside out this week. Let's choose our Live It Challenges.**

2

LIVE IT CHALLENGES

Read the Live It Challenges aloud. Help children circle the one they'll do this week.

3

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **Sometimes prayer is hard. Sometimes it seems as if God isn't answering. But like the woman in Jesus' story, we can keep trying and ► we pray without giving up.**

4

PRAY

Pray: **Dear God, we know you hear us when we pray, even if we don't see an answer right away. Help us remember to pray without giving up. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Living Inside Out Every Day!

Preschool

Luke 18:1-8



The Inside Truth

Your child learned that Jesus told a story about a widow who asked an uncaring judge over and over for what she needed. Finally the judge gave her what she wanted. We know that God does care for us, so we trust him to hear us and do what's best for us. Even when it seems as if God isn't listening, we pray without giving up.

Do You Remember?

Talk about these questions with your child:

- What happens when you keep trying and don't give up?
- What happens when you keep praying and don't give up?

◀ The Point ▶

We pray without giving up.

📖 Key Verse

*"Never stop praying."
—1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Live It Challenges

Choose a Challenge!

Your child chose the marked challenge for the week. Help your child remember to follow through and live out his or her faith.

1 CHALLENGE 1

Place a book on your head, and try to walk across the room without letting it fall off. Stand up very straight to help you balance the book. Try just a few short steps at first, and then walk farther as you get better at it. Even if it's hard at first, don't give up! Keep trying different books and different speeds. Then think about how you can pray without giving up, too.



2 CHALLENGE 2

Choose one thing to pray for, and pray for it every day for a week. If your mom or dad says it's okay, check off each day on a calendar. Remember to keep praying and not give up.

3 CHALLENGE 3

Ask a parent or another adult to tell you about a time he or she prayed for a long time and then saw God answer the prayer.



Living Inside Out at Home

Parents, choose “May I Now?” or “Don’t Give Up” to help reinforce what your child learned.

May I Now?

1. **Play** a game of Mother, May I? with your family by having everyone line up across the room from you. One at a time, they may ask to take a certain number of a type of step, such as giant steps, hops, normal steps, or baby steps.
2. **Say no** to the first 10 or 20 requests to move forward.
3. **Say yes** to some of the requests after several turns.
4. **Play** until someone reaches you; then switch roles.
5. **Talk** about what was frustrating in this game. Remind your child that the widow asked for help over and over, and we can pray like that, too.



Don't Give Up

1. **Hide** one of each of your children's toys in a tough-to-find spot.
2. **Give** clues to help each child find a toy.
3. **Play** with the toys with your children as you talk about how they kept trying to find the toy. Talk about how we can pray the same way, without giving up.

You'll Need

toy

