

CITY LG – July 25th-26th, 2026

Bible Story: The Story of the Widow Who Would Not Give Up • *Luke 18:1-8*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

WORSHIP

Goodbye Yesterday

Power Up

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! Welcome to The City! I'm so glad you're here. If this is your first time, seriously, you picked an awesome day to join us. This whole summer, we've been going on a Kingdom Quest and discovering more about what it means to live in God's kingdom. The full name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

And today, we're stepping into another part of the journey! But what is God's kingdom? Well, God's kingdom is anywhere where He reigns! He is loving, joyful, kind, trustworthy, holy, and righteous—and all of these really great things. God's kingdom is good because the King is good. And we want God to spread this good kingdom everywhere because it is so good!

Before we get into today's Bible Story, let's warm up our imagination muscles. Every great quest needs adventurers who can move fast, think fast, and pretend fast. So everybody, stand up!

Today, we're playing a game called 'Follow the Adventure!'

SLIDE: Follow the Adventure! Title

Here's how it works: I'm going to tell part of an imaginary adventure from deep inside the kingdom. Whatever I describe ... YOU act out. I want to see some prime acting skills. I want this place to be transformed because your acting is going to be pristine! Production crew, set the mood with some cinema music. Let's go!

SLIDE W/ AUDIO: Cinematic music

(Tell the story and pause appropriately throughout so the kids can act out the different parts of the story.)

- Once upon a time, there were adventurers, and they stepped into a Forest of Funny Discoveries. The air smells like warm cinnamon bread, and cotton-candy clouds drift so low, you have to DUCK so they don't tickle your ears. You swipe one away ... swipe the other way ... whoa, another one! Too many! Shake them off!
- You crunch forward over a trail made of cracker leaves. Every step, CRUNCH. CRUNCH. CRUNCH. Then suddenly, your foot sinks, SQUELCH, into a giant puddle of cold chocolate

pudding! Lift your foot ... try to shake it off ... nope, it's still there ... shake harder ... now hop out before you sink deeper!

- You walk a little farther, and the ground suddenly turns into a MARSHMALLOW TRAMPOLINE FIELD! You bounce once ... bounce higher ... bounce SUPER high, arms flailing, then land without falling. Nice save.
- Bright jellybean balloons float past your head. You try batting one away ... but it sticks to your hand! Shake it off! No, it's stuck to the other hand! Shake THAT off! Now do a full-body shake until it finally drifts away.
- You continue your journey when suddenly, WHOOSH, a Sprinkle Storm begins! Tiny rainbow sprinkles fly everywhere. It's snowing sprinkles! Brush them off your shoulders ... your hair ... your shoes ... now try walking through it like you're fighting a giant sprinkle windstorm ... lean forward ... keep going ... almost there ... and BREAK THROUGH!
- You make it out, but now a GIANT pudding bubble rises behind you. Turn around in ultra-slow motion ... the bubble wobbles ... wobbles ... and POP! Pudding splatters across your face. Oh ... my ... Wipe your forehead ... your eyes ... your cheeks ... yeah, even that spot behind your ear!
- Then you spot a staircase made of giant Twizzlers. Climb step one ... step two ... step three ... each one squishes under your feet. At the top, you slide down a caramel river, arms up! Yeah! Land safely with a SPLAT on a marshmallow landing pad.
- At the very end of the trail, you find a giant sign covered in sprinkles and cotton candy webs. Use huge superhero motions to wipe it clean ... wipe the sides ... wipe the top ... and there it is.
- The sign says: 'WELCOME, COURAGEOUS KINGDOM QUEST ADVENTURER! KEEP GOING!'
- You made it! Make a heroic pose ... hold it ... and relax. THE END.

Wow! That was crazy and so fun! You guys can ahead and grab a seat.

As we read more in the Bible about God's kingdom, let me ask you something ... have you ever prayed for something, and it felt like nothing was happening? Maybe you asked God to help you with something hard at school. Maybe you prayed for someone to feel better. Maybe you asked for courage, or help, or change ... and it felt like the answer was taking forever.

That feeling is tough, isn't it? The waiting can feel long. And sometimes, we even wonder, 'Should I just stop praying about this?'

There are moments when we might want to quit, give up, or move on. But Jesus knew that His followers, including us, would face those moments. So He told a story for times when praying feels hard. A story for when you're tired, or unsure, or starting to think, 'Maybe God isn't listening ...'

This story reminds us of something huge, something Jesus wants all of us to know: God wants you to pray and not give up! Let's dive into today's Bible Story.

VIDEO: Bible Story

This parable was Jesus' way of encouraging His friends. He wanted them to remember that talking to God is never wasted, never unnoticed, and never too small. It was His reminder to keep praying and not lose heart.

God wants us to talk to Him and talk to Him and talk to Him about what we want and need. And He promises that He will do great kingdom things when we do!

That reminds me of our Bottom Line for today. Let's see what it says.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.

We are to go to God with our needs and desires and keep asking, over and over and over. When you pray, you're talking to the God who loves you. The God who listens. The God who knows everything you're going through. And Jesus wanted us to know that we don't have to quit or feel discouraged if the answer seems slow. We can keep praying, over and over, because God never gets tired of hearing our voice.

God is our friend, and He loves to hear from us. Sometimes when we ask God for something, He answers fast. Sometimes it takes time. Sometimes the answer looks different from what we imagined. But every time you pray, you are drawing closer to God.

So our part in the friendship is simple: Keep praying, and keep going. Don't give up! Because God is close, and He cares, and He's working, even when we can't see it yet.

God wants to hear your heart and invites you to share it with Him. What are you praying for right now? Keep asking.

Let's talk to the God who loves it when we talk to Him!"

You can bow your heads and close your eyes.

God, thank You that You never get tired of us coming to You again and again. You are good, You are kind, and You always listen. God, sometimes waiting is hard. Sometimes we feel frustrated, or tired, or unsure. But we will keep praying and not give up. We trust that You're working, even when we can't see how things are changing yet. Right now, God, we bring You the thing we've been praying about—something in our life, or our family, or our heart. We give this to You again today. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be about 25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part, but remind kids who have offering to place it in the container.

OFFERING

In Parkview Kids, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. This year we are collecting our offering money to help kids all the way on the other side of the world in a country in Africa called Malawi. Did you know that in this area many communities don't have access to clean water?

Slides: 5-8

We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water, and they don't have to walk with heavy containers of water like you see in these pictures.

Children help carry water too! They have to travel so far that they have to miss school sometimes. And if they used the dirty water that is in their village, they would get very sick. Help us raise money to provide clean water wells in the communities in Malawi who need them. We want you to go home and ask what YOU can do to raise money for these families in Africa!