

Children's Story – Learning to Be Persistent

Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8

What does it mean to be persistent? Have you ever asked your parents for something again and again and heard them say, "You are so persistent"? Sometimes children are very persistent when they want a new toy or when they want to do something or go somewhere. Children keep asking and asking and ASKING.

Jesus told a parable about someone who was persistent. A neighbor was out of bread. He and his family were very hungry. Bread was the main food they ate. So he went to a friend's house. But it was late at night, and everyone was sleeping. He knocked on the door (*make knocking sound*). No one answered. He knocked again and again (*keep knocking*). He kept knocking and knocking and KNOCKING until finally someone came to the door. The friend gave him bread and the neighbor went back home.

(Pause.)

God's kingdom is like this parable. When we pray or talk to God, it is like asking a friend for bread. Prayer is like knocking at a friend's door. God hears our prayers anywhere and anytime. We can talk to God when we get up in the morning (*make stretching motions*) and ask God to be with us. We can pray when we eat our breakfast (*make eating motions*) and thank God for good food (*rub tummy*). We can talk to God when we play or go to school and ask God to help us be a kind friend. We can pray when we feel sad (*make tear motion from eyes*) and when we are happy (*make happy face motion*).

God never gets tired of hearing our voice. God always listens to our prayers. Let's talk to God now. I wonder if there is something you would like to say to God (*invite children's responses*).

Pray: Thank you God for ... (*allow children to offer their prayers*). We ask you God for ... (*allow children to offer prayers*). We want to tell you God ... (*allow children to offer prayers*). Thank you that you hear our prayers everywhere and always. Amen.

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