



## LESSON 4 LEADER OUTLINE

### *Keep On Keepin' On*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS - 7:30PM

#### BEGIN LESSON - 7:33PM

#### LESSON INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Lesson 4 of our Home Group series: *Parables - The Moral of the Story*

- During this series, we'll take a closer look at several of the most well-known parables Jesus told and uncover the meaning and the moral of each story.

#### ICEBREAKER

**New Year's resolutions are easy to make... and easy to break. Time Magazine published a list that included 6 of the most commonly broken New Year's resolutions. Can you guess what's on the list?**

*Leader Note: Allow your group members some time to guess, and then share the answers with them.*

1. Lose Weight & Get Fit
2. Learn Something New
3. Get Out of Debt & Save Money
4. Spend More Time With Family
5. Travel To New Places
6. Be Less Stressed

For most people, the problem with New Year's resolutions doesn't have anything to do with talent or ability.

- We have everything we need to succeed. The question is: Can we keep it up long enough to see the results we're after?
- Whether it's natural or spiritual goals we're talking about, there's no substitute for the power of persistence.
- In tonight's parable, Jesus gives us a glimpse of just how much we can accomplish simply by refusing to give up.
- We'll talk more about it after our video lesson.

## PLAY LESSON VIDEO - START BY 7:45PM AT THE LATEST

*Leader Note: The scriptures for tonight's reading are Luke 18:1-8.*

### [AFTER VIDEO]

*Leader Note: The group should be reviewing the 'Ending Comments' at approximately **8:25pm**.*

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#### COMMENT:

Jesus compared the days leading up to His return with times of Noah and Lot. Both of those generations were completely caught off guard when God showed up to judge them. Besides Noah and his family, no one was prepared for the flood. The citizens of Sodom had no idea that their city was about to be consumed by fire and brimstone.

The obvious point here is that many won't be prepared for the coming of the Lord. It also goes without saying that being a believer in the days of Noah and Lot wasn't popular... and it wasn't easy. While their difficulties were different than ours, we're still living in a society that's set against God in many ways.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What are some of the unique challenges that our generation faces as we live for God?**
  - **Jesus continually urged people to be ready for His return. In Revelation 22:12, He said, "Behold, I am coming quickly...." How should that impact our daily lives and our priorities? Do we think about it as much as we should?**
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#### COMMENT:

God isn't anything like the unjust judge in tonight's parable. Instead of being annoyed by the fact that we're continually coming back to talk to Him again and again, He's thrilled by it. That's a difference we like. Here's one that we don't always appreciate: We can't force God to do things our way. We can't always predict how or when He's going to answer our prayers. If we demand that He change a situation immediately, there are times when we'll be disappointed. But if we give Him open access to change us, we'll always leave our prayer time better than we came.

There are times when we won't understand God, but we can always trust Him to do what's best for us.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **How has the way you pray changed over time since you've learned more about God?**
  - **How do prayers that aren't immediately answered test and build our faith?**
  - **Can you think of a time when God answered your prayer after a period of waiting? Looking back, why do you think He delayed in answering?**
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#### COMMENT:

The widow in tonight's parable didn't have much hope for justice. To get anywhere with the courts in her day, you had to be a man and have money. It's seemed like a no-win situation, but she refused to give up.

The point of the parable doesn't have much to do with her case... it has everything to do with her consistency. She didn't lose heart, and she didn't throw in the towel. Instead, she was patient and persistent. It's not God's goodness that's on trial in this parable - it's our faithfulness. Will we 'pray and not lose heart?'

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- **What are some things that happen in our lives when we stop praying consistently?**
  - **What are some obstacles we have to overcome if we want to build a steady, consistent prayer life?**
  - **What are some things (or people) we should pray about consistently? Why is this important?**
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#### **ENDING COMMENTS (8:25pm):**

Someone once said, "If you don't know when and where you're going to pray tomorrow, you're probably not going to pray."

- There's a lot of truth to that! Having a consistent prayer life is certainly easier said than done. It takes planning and discipline, but the benefits are endless!
- Prayer is so important to our walk with God. So, tonight we're going to pray about... praying.
- Let's ask God to help us be more faithful in prayer than we ever have.

**[CLOSING PRAYER]**

**[DISMISS BY 8:30PM]**

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For your convenience, here is the link to submit your group attendance <https://por.ccbchurch.com>