

# ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

## *Bible Study Outline*

**TOPIC:** The Widow and the Judge

**TEXT:** *Luke 18:1-8*

**Instructions: Instructions:** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** Today many people are suffering from a disease known as "lottery fever," the gambling craze sparked by million-dollar lotteries. Week by week two or three winners are interviewed on TV, keeping the fever high. Yet logically a person's chances of winning are very small, that you would think people would soon get discouraged. "Yet millions go on playing the lotteries unsuccessfully all their lives. They never lose hope.

But Christians who pray often do lose hope at a point. Why? What makes us give up when the answer delays? Why do many of us stop expecting anything when we pray, using "Thy will be done" as an excuse for unbelief? In this parable Jesus tells us why we should always pray and never give up.

### **Discussion questions:**

1. Is there as much excitement and expectation in your prayers now as there was when you first became a Christian? Why or why not? Explain.
2. In your opinion, what are the key words in that scripture that we read? As you read it again try to identify them and underline them or ask someone to write them out. Let the class explain their understanding of each of them in the context of the parable.
3. The characters in the parable are drawn sketchily but vividly. What images come to mind when you think about the widow? And the judge? Explain with examples.
4. Why do you think the widow is so persistent? Discuss what finally motivates the judge to act (w. 4-5).
5. What we believe about God and how we *feel* about Him when we pray may not be consistent / regular. For example, one may believe that God cares for all his/her needs but may still be feeling resentful that God hasn't helped him/her get a desired job. If this is possible, how then can one manage this conflicting feelings and beliefs when praying to this God? Explain.

6. Use your imagination to fill in the details about those praying to God as per verses 6-8. In your own perspective, how would you describe them and their circumstances? What do you think Christians need to be able to hold on in faith that God is still what was described in those verses?

7. Are your prayers sometimes as desperate as those described here? Why or not? Do we expect God to do far more for those in vs. 7 than the judge did for the widow? Explain your thoughts.

8. Jesus told this parable to show us that we should always pray and not give up (vs. 1). How would you explain the uncertainty in his question in the last part of verse 8?

9. Think of someone you know that is tempted to give up praying about someone or something. Describe what you can do to help and to encourage that person.