

# LifeGroup Discussion | The Persistent Widow | Week of 11/9/25

**Main Passage:** Luke 18:1–8

**Supporting Passages:** *1 Peter 5:7–8; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 4:16; Matthew 7:7–11; Isaiah 30:18; Colossians 2:6–7; 2 Peter 3:9*

**Culture Code Emphasis:** *Presence > Preference*

**Main Idea/Question:** How do we become people who **keep praying and don't lose heart**—especially when heaven feels quiet?

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## Key Areas of the Sermon

- **The Struggle Is Real—Don't Give Up:** *Jesus told this parable so we "ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Lk 18:1).*
- **God Is Not Like the Judge:** *We aren't nuisances in His courtroom; we're family in His presence (Heb 4:16; 1 Pet 5:7).*
- **Faith Is the Real Issue:** *Persistent prayer doesn't wear God down; it **builds faith up** (Col 2:6–7; Gal 6:9).*
- **Roots Before Fruit:** *In the waiting, God often grows **roots** before He shows **fruit** (Is 40:31).*
- **Delays ≠ Denials:** *God's timing is patient and purposeful (2 Pet 3:9; Is 30:18).*

## PORCH TALK (casual discussion over food or interactions)

- What stood out to you from Sunday?
- Where do you tend to be a "starter" but struggle to be a "sticker"?
- Have you ever felt like your prayers hit the ceiling? What did you do next?
- How can we take what we discussed and actually practice it this week?
- How can I be praying or holding you accountable in response to what you heard?

**Anchor Verse:** "He told them a parable to the effect that they ought **always to pray and not lose heart.**" — Luke 18:1

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**Reflective Passages:** *Luke 18:1–8; Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 34:15; Psalm 145:18*

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### LIVING ROOM (deeper discussion for those who heard the sermon)

#### 1) The Struggle Is Real — But Don't Give Up

**Read:** Luke 18:1; Galatians 6:9; 1 Peter 5:8

**Context:** Jesus anticipates seasons when prayer feels costly or pointless.

**Say:** Most people don't quit loudly; they quit **quietly**. Persistent prayer keeps our **alignment** when answers delay.

**Ask:** How do you usually respond when God seems *unresponsive*—**withdrawal**, **striving**, **cynicism**, or **surrender**? What's one prayer you've quietly stopped praying because it felt "**unproductive**"? If prayer is meant to align us with God, not just move Him, what might He be *realigning* in you through that silence?

**Support:** Psalm 145:18; Psalm 34:15

#### 2) God Is Not Like the Judge — So Keep Coming

**Read:** Luke 18:2–7; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 7:7–11

**Context:** Corrupt judge vs. loving Father: **argue from lesser to greater**.

**Say:** You're not twisting God's arm; you're trusting His heart. He's not reluctant—He's righteous and **ready** (Is 30:18).

**Ask:** Which lie shows up most for you: "God's **annoyed**," "God's **distant**," or "**God doesn't care**"? How do you reconcile the difference between "God is good" and "God is slow"? Have you ever looked back and realized God's delay *protected* you from something? What parts of your prayer life reveal that you still approach God like a judge instead of a Father?

**Support:** Psalm 34:15; Isaiah 30:18

#### 3) Faith Is the Real Issue — So Keep Believing

**Read:** Luke 18:8; Colossians 2:6–7; Isaiah 40:31

**Context:** Jesus ends by asking about **faith**, not results.

**Say:** Persistent prayer isn't an end—it's how faith grows **roots** beneath the surface before fruit appears.

**Ask:** Where do you sense God growing **roots** in you (patience, trust, endurance)? What would "don't lose heart" look like in your situation **this week**?

**Support:** 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:12

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### AFTER GLOW (reflection or follow-up)

**Read:** Luke 18:7–8; Isaiah 40:31

**Say:** God's delays are not denials. He's attentive, near, and patient—forming faith that lasts.

**Ask:** What prayer have you stopped praying that you sense God inviting you to pick up again? What desire might God be **reshaping** in your waiting? Who needs you to stand with them in **persistent** prayer this week?

#### Reflection Verses:

- “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry.” — Psalm 34:15
- “Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength.” — Isaiah 40:31

### Follow-Up & Challenge

- **Name it:** Write down **one prayer** you'll persist in this week. Put it where you'll see it daily.
- **Schedule it:** Choose a simple rhythm (e.g., **7:00 AM & 7:00 PM**—two minutes of focused prayer).
- **Agree together:** Share that prayer with the group or a partner; **text updates** mid-week.
- **Act in faith:** Take one concrete step that matches your prayer (call, apologize, apply, serve).
- **Refuse quitting:** When discouragement hits, pray **one sentence:** “Father, You're not like the judge—I will not lose heart.”

#### Legacy Challenge:

Before next Sunday, **persist** in prayer for one person and **invite** them to church/LifeGroup. Come ready to share: *Where did you see God grow roots—or open a door?*

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