



**Sermon Based Small Group
Leader Discussion Guide**

Sermon Title: Hand It Over

**Sermon by Ryan Soderberg
Week of October 17, 2010**

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<p>Ice Breaker</p>	<p>Begin with the question, "Can you think of a specific time where persistence paid off?" Allow time for individual responses. Tell the group that you have some information regarding famous people whose persistence changed the world.</p> <p>Thomas Edison---He had 1000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. Dr. Seuss---27 publishers rejected his first book. Elvis Presley---was fired after one performance at the Grand Old Opry and told that he should go back to driving a truck. Michael Jordan--was cut from his high school basketball team. Walt Disney---was fired from a newspaper job because he "lacked imagination and had no good ideas."</p>
<p>Lesson Objectives</p>	<p>Participants should come to the conclusion that God is always listening when we talk to him. Participants should realize that we don't have to go through anything alone. Participants should have a greater understanding of the power of prayer.</p>
<p>Personal Connection</p>	<p>Do you truly believe that God answers our prayers? Name someone that you know that you consider to be a true "prayer warrior."</p>

Sermon Text**Luke 18:1-8****Digging
Deeper****Learning more about the lesson**

¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said. "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men,⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' ⁶ " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you , he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:1-8

In verse 1, Jesus tell the disciples that they "should pray and not give up."

When you are confronted with a problem or some kind of trouble in your life, what is your first instinct?

- a) Oh no! What am I going to do now?
- b) Who can I call to talk to about this?
- c) God I know that I can't handle this alone. I am handing it over to you.

Leader note* Ask group members if they have made a "Declaration of Dependence" on God.

In verse 2 it states that the judge "neither feared God nor cared about men." However, because of the widow's persistence, he decided to help her.

Leader note* Discuss the definitions, synonyms and antonyms for the word persist.

PERSIST- TO CONTINUE FIRMLY DESPITE OBSTACLES.

SYNONYMS- PERSEVERE, CONTINUE, REMAIN, ENDURE

ANTONYMS- WAVER, CEASE, DISCONTINUE, STOP

Why do you think the widow continued to go to the judge?

Leader note* The widow believed that the judge was the only one who could help her.

In John, chapter 6, after many of his followers had turned away from him, he asked the twelve whether or not they wanted to leave also. Peter's reply was, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

What would have happened to the widow's request if she had chosen to waver, or cease, or discontinue or stop?

In verse 3, the widow asks the judge for "justice against my adversary."

2Chronicles 12:6 reminds us that , "The Lord is just."

Psalms 9:16 tells us that, "The Lord is known by his justice."

In verses 6-8 the writer reminds us that if an unfit judge, who doesn't care about right or wrong, eventually helped the widow because of her persistence, how much more can we be assured that our Father in heaven, who loves us, will answer our prayers?

Leader note* In the New Jerome Biblical Commentary, it states that this passage is related to the discussion in Luke 17:20-37 that talks about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus is letting his followers know about the importance of keeping the faith and continuing to pray during the difficult times until his return. The parable is telling us not to just pray continually, but to pray with confidence knowing that God is the maker of heaven and earth and that he is our help.

The following activity should be done as a group

Read Psalm 121 together. * In this passage the words **your** and **you** have been replaced with **my** and **me**.

**I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE HILLS-
WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM?
MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD,
THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.
HE WILL NOT LET MY FOOT SLIP-
HE WHO WATCHES OVER ME WILL NOT SLUMBER;**

**INDEED, HE WHO WATCHES OVER ISRAEL
WILL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP.
THE LORD WATCHES OVER ME-
THE LORD IS MY SHADE AT MY
RIGHT HAND;
THE SUN WILL NOT HARM ME BY DAY,
NOR THE MOON BY NIGHT.
THE LORD WILL KEEP ME FROM ALL
HARM-
HE WILL WATCH OVER MY LIFE;
THE LORD WILL WATCH OVER MY COMING
AND GOING
BOTH NOW AND FOREVERMORE.
PSALM 121**

Leader* Ask group members which specific verse or verses had the most meaning for them while reading this Psalm.

How will I live it? Apply it?

We need to ask ourselves whether or not we really believe that God not only can but does answer our prayers. Make it a priority this week to begin each day with prayer, thanking God for all of the prayers he has answered and all of the ones that will be answered.

REMEMBER TO H. I. O.

(hand it over)

When we pray, remember ACTS:

Adoration (the worship of God)

Confession (formal declaration of our sins to God)

Thanksgiving (offering thanks to God for all he has done)

Supplication (humble and sincere appeal to God)

Taking it Home

Looking Ahead

How can I prepare for the next small group meeting?

<p>And Prayer Focus</p>	<p>Read Psalm 121 once each day for the next week to be reminded of where your help truly comes from.</p> <p>Be in prayer for each of the guest speakers that we will be having during Tom's absence.</p> <p>Prayer requests and Praises:</p>
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