

## Bible Engagement – Luke 18:1-8 Year C – Pentecost 22 Oct 16 2016



**What this is:** Intergenerational Bible reading with music



**Where it's used:** In any intergenerational gathering, but specifically with Lectionary based gatherings



**Time:** 5-10 minutes



**Bible focus/theme:** Luke 18:1-8



**What's needed:** Music – Let Justice Roll (Beth Barnett, Welcoming Voices, 2011). Copies of text (either onscreen or printed copies) with the phrases 'Grant Justice' in bold (see sample below). Prepare either your musicians or your audio person with an outline of how the music will be used.

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*Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.*

*He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people.*

*In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'*

*For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"*

*And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.*

*And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?*

*I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"*

*Luke 18:1-8*



# Luke 18:1-8

## Introduction:

Sometimes when Jesus tells a parable or a story he begins with 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like...' or 'To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God', and sometimes he just launches into a story 'There was a rich man....' Or 'The Land of a Rich man...'

The Bible reading today from the Gospel of Luke is one of these kinds of stories. It doesn't begin with 'The Kingdom of God is like...' so straight away we know that it's not giving us a picture of God, or God's ways. It's helping us to see how different God's ways are to the way we are used to things being.

In this story there is a Judge. In the time of Jesus Judges didn't have to go to university and pass exams and qualify to be a judge. They didn't have to make promises like Australian Judges in the 21st Century do, who promise to be accountable to the law

"without fear or favour, affection or ill-will". That means no favourites. Always fair.

In Jesus' time Judges were appointed by their powerful friends and they were almost always corrupt and unfair.

Jesus tells this story about a terrible corrupt judge to make sure we know that God ISN'T like this.

God's ways are the ways of Justice. Always.

So before we read the bible we are going to learn a little bit of a song that belongs in the story.

- *Teach the soundbite of 'Let Justice Roll' repeating it a few times.*



- *Listen to the entire song – inviting everyone to join in on the repeated phrase 'Let Justice Roll' that you have practiced.*

# Luke 18:1-8

In this story there is a woman, a widow, so she's a vulnerable person – normally a woman in the ancient world would depend on a man who had legal citizenship to look after her, and defend her in court if needed. But a widow might not have anyone to help her with this.

But this widow, this woman knows what is right and so she keeps calling out 'Grant me Justice' or another way of saying that is 'Let Justice Roll'

This is not a story about nagging, or being annoying, it's not about how many times we have to ask God for him to listen and act. Not at all. This is a story about the importance of Justice to God.

We are going to read Jesus' story together, and we are going to amplify the theme of justice to one another. Four times, when the request 'Grant Justice' appears, we will sing together the phrase we have learned 'Let Justice Roll'.

- *Lead reading and singing phrases. Repeat.*
- *Sing whole of 'Let Justice Roll'.*

## **Conclusion:**

Let's be encouraged that God is not like the judge. Not one bit. God is for justice! For Justice completely! Jesus tells this story to encourage us to pray boldly, full of faith and heartily for Justice, knowing that God is on the side of justice.



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