

KEEP KNOCKING

YEAR 1, 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Explain that, "Often times we give up too easily or too soon because we don't see any progress being made. When times are tough, remember that God is even more present to us than we are to ourselves. Maybe we just aren't asking the right questions and; therefore, can't hear the appropriate answers. We often aren't patient enough to wait for God while He's working. Remember, spiritual consolation will always come! When our hearts grow heavy, always pray for patience."

To play this game you will need a locked box with a prize inside. The box must be protected under "set your own" 4 letter combination lock. Set the combination to BEAR. Students will need to solve a series of clues using the scriptures to find the combination to the lock. We chose to further challenge our students by creating a scavenger hunt with clues that led them around our church to get what they would need to unlock the box (the final clue set and a Bible). Finding clue after clue that didn't lead them immediately to a final answer required lots of patience! You can do this activity with or without this added challenge.

Give each group clue sheet and a Bible but no other hints! Instead remind them to keep working and ask God for patience, even when they're frustrated.

For your eyes only: The joke mentions a frog, King, poor widow and elders. Related verses on the clue sheet (Ex 7:25-29, Mk 15:17-18, Mk 12:41-42, Rv 4:4) will tell them that frogs were the *second* plague, that the guards said to Jesus "Hail *King* of the Jews, the poor widow gave *two* coins, and that *twenty-four* elders sat on twenty-four thrones). "King" is also italicized in the joke to draw attention to the word since it lacks the common theme of numbers. At the bottom of the list of verses the clue 1 3 8 10 might draw attention to the first, third, eighth and tenth verses on the list as should the # and * symbols. This should lead them to 2 Kings 2:24, when Elisha curses those that insult him by calling him bald head and two bears come out of the woods to maul them. Which isn't really a punchline to a joke, but the joke set-up and verse have a common theme of insulting a bald man. All the other Bible verses contain four-letter words that are red herrings.

If you can find the punch line to this joke, you can unlock the prize box.

A frog, a *King*, a poor widow and some elders walk into a barber shop. The elders turn to the king and ask what a bald man is doing here.
Then . . .

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Exodus 7: 25-29 #

John 15:5

Mark 15:17-18 *

Genesis 8:11

Matthew 7:12

Luke 9: 16-17

Proverbs 22:13

Mark 12: 41-42 #

Matthew 2:2

Revelation 4:4 #

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