Date: 9/12/15

Title: Pretzels and Prayer

Theme: You can pray anytime and anywhere

Object: Pretzels for each child.

Text: Luke 18:1 (NIV) Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Jesus told a story to his disciples about a widow who kept asking a judge to hear her case.

Finally the judge said to himself, I really don’t care about this woman, but I am going to hear her case so she doesn’t keep pestering me.

Jesus said that God is not like this judge.

God really does care about us and wants to hear us pray.

[Tell about last night’s Agape Feast and how three girls decided to pray all on their own after foot washing]

That made me really glad and proud of our young folks because sometimes it is hard to get kids to pray.

In fact, do you know, pretzels were invented in order to get kids to pray.

How many like pretzels? [Show picture of multi-pretzels.]

Pretzels were invented by a Monk in Italy as a reward for kids who learned their prayers.

He made little biscuits shaped like a pair of hands clasped in prayer.

And he called it “pretiola” which means “little gift.”

Traveler ended up taking pretiola over the Alps mountains to Germany and there pretzels became very popular.

In 1861, Julius Sturgis opened the first pretzel bakery in the United States in Lititz, PA.

Now pretzels are very popular here too.

But we should not forget that the reason pretzels were invented was to teach children to pray.

Prayer is a wonderful privilege; and Jesus says that we should always pray and never give up.

Prayer is simply talking to God as you would to a friend.

When you talk to God, He listens and hears, and according to His will answers prayer.

You don’t have to wait until you’re in church or at the dinner table, or kneeling beside your bed.

You can talk to God whenever you want, and you can talk about whatever is on your mind.

I hope the next time you see a pretzel it will remind you to pray to God.

O look! Here’s some pretzels for each of you.

That reminds me: let’s pray. Then you can each have one.