



The Leprosy
Mission
Northern Ireland

RESOURCES
FOR CHURCH
YOUTH
GROUPS AND
SCHOOLS

Never Give Up!

Meet Parbati

STORY TIME:

Never Give Up! the story of Parbati



Hi, my name is Parbati. I'm 28 years old and I live in Nepal.

As a child, I remember working hard each day. We didn't have a school to go to, so we helped out with jobs around the house and in the fields. Each day, it was up to me to look after the goats and collect firewood.

Something really sad happened to me when I was just 6 years old. My mum got really sick and died. A few years later, when I was 12, I got sick as well. I had two symptoms at the start - a high temperature, and my hands and legs kept getting pins and needles in them all the time. It was so strange. I felt frightened because of what had happened to my mum. As time went on, I could feel less and less with my hands and my legs. It got more and more difficult to walk, and to pick up the firewood. Also, I kept getting really bad cuts on my feet.

My fingers and toes started to become weak and even shorten in length. My brother and my dad got really scared. They made me live hidden away in an outhouse and didn't let me touch any of their plates or food. The cuts on my feet got so bad that I wasn't able to walk. I felt sad and started to lose hope for the future.

Then one day I was listening to the radio. The local station explained about the symptoms of leprosy. As I heard what they were, I realised that I must have this disease. They also said that it could be treated. I had some hope!



I managed to get to hospital. They treated the deep wounds in my feet. Once I was healed, special doctors fitted me out with a new pair of specially designed shoes. The nurse helped me to learn how to walk in them.

Next, I had some surgery on my hand. It was a wonderful moment in my life when I was able to use my thumb for the first time in years! As part of my recovery I started to learn how to knit and sew. I loved learning how to do this and soon got quite good at it. One of the first items I made was a mobile phone cover! I also began to learn how to read and to write.

I have always had a dream. I dreamt of setting up my own shop, selling items that I had made myself. Amazingly, I was given the opportunity to do this. With the help of the TLM hospital, who provided money for me to start the business up, I now run my very own shop! Everyone in my village are inspired. They say that I am doing a good job. Even though I'm disabled, I have been able to earn my living. So I am a good example for many people!



PRAYER TIME:

Dear God, we pray for Parbati. Help her to stay healthy. Help her shop to become more and more popular. We pray too for other people with leprosy. Help them to find the treatment and care they need so that they can find hope, healing and happiness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

QUIZ TIME:

Never Give Up!

1

What age is Parbati?

2

What were the 2 jobs that Parbati did as a child?

3

When Parbati got sick at age 12, what were her first 2 symptoms?

4

How did Parbati find out that she had leprosy?

5

For how many years was Parbati unable to walk because of the cuts on her feet?

6

Parbati had surgery that meant something in her hand could move again, but what was it?

7

What was one of the first items Parbati learnt to knit while in hospital?

8

What was Parbati's dream?

CRAFT TIME:

Never Give Up!

Design a mobile phone cover that you think Parbati would like to make!



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REFLECTION TIME: Never Give Up!

Parbati faced a lot of difficulty in her life, but she didn't give up. Even when she didn't know what was wrong with her, even when she couldn't walk, she kept going and had a dream of a better future.

The Bible encourages us to always keep going, and never give up:



“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Hebrews 12:1b-2)

The reason it tells us that we are to keep going is because of the example of Jesus. Despite his friends betraying him, despite being arrested, beaten and crucified on the cross, Jesus still kept on trusting in God, and still kept on showing love and kindness to others. Even as he was on the cross, he prayed that God would forgive those who put him there.

Even when things are difficult let's follow the example of Jesus in all that we do by always trusting God, and by always being kind and showing love to others.



**Let's never give up
on the love of God!**

ACTION TIME: Showing love to those with leprosy

We can show God's love to those with leprosy by raising money so that they can receive the care and the practical help that they need to see their dreams come true. Why not have a sponsored event or coffee morning to raise money to help people like Parbati?

The funds that you raise could make an amazing difference in the lives of those with leprosy:



**£20
BANDAGES**

Parbati's feet were badly infected. Special bandages helped to heal her wounds and walk again.



**£120
HAND
SURGERY**

Parbati benefitted greatly from surgery to her hand, allowing her to learn to knit and sew.



**£375
PROSTHETIC
LIMB**

Many people like Parbati lose a leg because of leprosy. A prosthetic limb is an amazing gift that can change someone's life dramatically!

For more information and ideas about fundraising, visit www.tlm-ni.org/how-you-can-help/fundraise



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