

WEEK 4

Tax Collector
(Luke 18:9-14)



Connect



FIND
7
DIFFERENCES



Sometimes or maybe most of the time, it is easy for us to see how different we are from others. Actually, the tendency is, we don't just look at the difference, we tend to see ourselves better than other people.

Today we will read a parable about two different characters who came to the temple to pray.



Read the Word

Luke 18:9-14

"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.""

The Bible says that all of us have sinned. However, many of us do not recognize this and instead of humbling ourselves before God and asking for mercy, we act like the Pharisee. We think that because we haven't stolen anything, nor killed anyone, we must be good people. We become blinded with pride, thinking that we are better than others.

But Jesus teaches us otherwise. He teaches us to be humble and not to think highly of ourselves. It means we do not think that we are better than other people. Instead of thinking of ourselves, we should think more of others and of God.



Huddle

Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- What are some of the things that you think you are better at compared to your friends? Do you feel good about it?

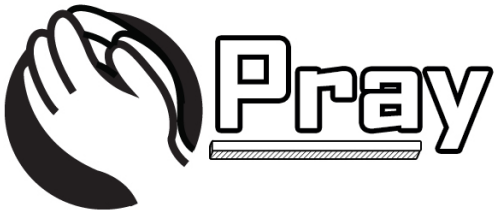
7-12 years old

- Was there a time that you felt like you deserve higher recognition/more rewards than your classmates? Tell us about it.

Kid/s to Parent:

- Do you always not think of yourself? How do you do that?

It is not easy to be humble and not to think about yourself. We are born this way and it is innate in us. There is always pride in our hearts. That is why we need to learn from Jesus. Jesus is the best example we have of being humble. He is God yet He left all the comforts of heaven and came to be born as a man and then died a humiliating death on the cross. He did all that so we can come near to God again.



Dear Lord,

Thank you for showing us what being humble truly means. Please teach us to follow Your example, to not think about ourselves all the time. Forgive us for all those times we have thought we were better than others. Thank You because You love us, in Jesus' name,

Amen.



What is a Pharisee?

A Pharisee is a religious leader mentioned in the New Testament of the Bible. Pharisees believe in strictly obeying the laws of Judaism. They were thought of highly by the people. However, in Matthew 23, Jesus denounced them and called them hypocrites several times because they were more concerned with outward appearances and righteousness and they do not do what they teach.

More than our outward appearance, Jesus is more concerned with our hearts because once our hearts (inward) are right, our words and actions (outward) will eventually show it.

