

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 20: **The Pharisee & The Tax Collector (from Luke 18:9-14)**

To the Teacher:

This lesson can often seem straightforward to adults, especially ones who are familiar with the Bible, but the implicit messages can easily go over the kids' heads because of the confusing details in the story. Pray this week that God will give you guidance and help you convey this important truth to our kids.

Big Idea and Missio Basic:

- God humbles the proud and celebrates the humble
- Servant - King Jesus humbled Himself and gave us the identity of Servants

Starter Ideas: You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. **Coloring Page/Activity:**

*Have the kids color a picture of the pharisee and the tax collector.

*Have each of the kids make a pair of puppets with popsicle sticks, glue, and the attached sheets. Allow the kids to use their puppets while you are telling the story. (If or when you say or refer to the Pharisee or Tax Collector have them hold up the corresponding puppet)

2. **Free Play:** Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)

3. **Balloon Play:** Allow the kids to play with blown up balloons. Let them try to keep them up in the air or toss them back and forth to each other.

Circle Time: When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

Welcome Song: (To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Welcome, [Name]
Welcome, [Name]
Hear God's Word
Hear God's Word
We can trust in Jesus.
We can trust in Jesus.
Welcome, friends.
Welcome, friends.

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus' special words. Jesus used these words of peace when the disciples were scared. Jesus said, "Peace be with you." We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, "Peace be with you."

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God's peace by shaking their hand and saying, "Peace be with you." Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched! **Let's all say Jesus' words of peace. "Peace be with you."** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

Prayer Time:

Praying for Others: Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them. Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

Praying Together: (*touch your nose for 'smell', your ears for 'hear', etc.*)

*God, help us use our **ears** to **hear** you, our **eyes** to **see** you, and our **brains** to **understand** your word. Thank you Jesus that you live in a body like ours.*

Starter: 'Humility Is Useful to God'

Give each of the kids a balloon and keep one for yourself. Demonstrate for the kids how a deflated balloon is pliable, it is easy to stretch and fold. You can wrap it around your finger or other objects. Have the kids experiment with the versatility of their deflated balloons. Then have each of the kids blow up their balloons and blow up yours as well. Talk about how it is no longer flexible. Now that it is "puffed up" it can only be one shape. Explain to the kids that a prideful or "puffed up" person is not as useful to God as a flexible, pliable, or humble person. Tell them that today's story is about a time when Jesus told a parable to explain this to His followers.

Story: from Luke 18:9-14

Movie: Play this short video clip for the kiddos.

<https://youtu.be/YWK2edNPPXE>

Or

READ:

One day Jesus was teaching a group of people, including His disciples. Now, also in this group were some people who believed they were righteous, or right before God. These people would look down on everyone else because they thought they were better than them. Jesus told the group a parable, or story, to help show them what God thought about that kind of behavior.

Jesus said: "There were two men who went to the temple to pray, one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector." When the crowd heard about these two men they would have known right away that Pharisees were religious leaders who said they always followed God's law. They would have also known that many tax collectors were liars and cheaters who stole money from God's people while helping their enemies. Jesus used these two examples because He wanted the people to see that God knows how everyone truly is on the inside, not just what people can see on the outside. Jesus continued the story: "The Pharisee stood by himself (because he felt he was better than everyone else) and he prayed: 'God, thank you that I am not like other people; robbers, people who do other evil things, or even like this tax collector who is here with me now. I fast (a form of prayer where someone relies on God to provide what is needed for their body) twice a week and I give to the priests a tenth of all that I get.'

"But the tax collector stood far away from everyone else (because he did not feel worthy to come close to God or even to other people). In fact, he wouldn't even look up toward heaven. Instead, he looked down and hit his fist on his chest because he felt so guilty. He said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'" Then Jesus finished the story by saying this: "I tell you that the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, went home justified, or right before God. That is because everyone who makes much of themselves will be humbled, and everyone who humbles themselves will be made much of by God."

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: Why did Jesus say that the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was right before God?
 - The tax collector humbled himself by admitting he was a sinner
- Ask: It seemed like the pharisee did good things. Why didn't that make him right before God?

▸ The Pharisee seemed to do all the 'right things' to earn acceptance from God, not out of a love and gratitude God had already accepted him.

- Ask: How did the Pharisee in the story think about himself and others?
 - Highly of himself, poorly of others
- Ask: Was Jesus telling this story to Pharisees?
 - Not necessarily. In fact, the only people we know were there were Jesus' disciples
- Ask: Why did Jesus want his followers to hear this story?
 - He wanted his followers to know that God did not love them because of the things they did, and he did not love them more than other people. God cares for all people and wants his followers to do the same.

Snack Time: Let's take a big stretch! Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today's snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today's snack is goldfish or veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

BLESS Activity:

****For kids to do during the week****

SPEAK: *This week pick one person you do not normally spend a lot of time with and think of things you truly think are special about them. When it is appropriate, tell that person what you think is special about them and why. Tell them you are grateful God made them special! Make sure what you say is true about them and that you truly think it, otherwise it will not be meaningful.□*

Optional playground time: If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that preschool class playground time does not start until 12PM.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for your word, The Bible.

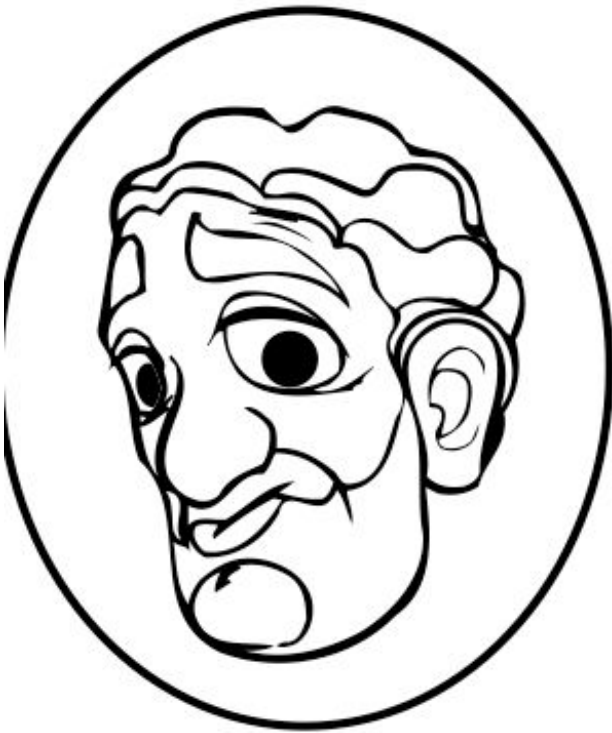
Thank you for sending Jesus in a real body so we can know you.

Help us to trust that your word is true.

Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.



Pharisee



tax collector