

The Pharisee and the tax collector



Bible verses:

Luke 18:9-14

Being right with God



Aim:

To find that being right with God comes through humility



Today's fruit:

Gentleness



In today's session Jesus tells a story specifically for those who think they are better than everyone else.

The Pharisee and the tax collector both came to the Temple to pray, but only one of them came with a humble heart. Today we'll discover what it means to show humility as we follow Jesus in our everyday lives.

Gentleness is shown by the tax collector's humble prayer.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils, scissors and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Gentleness*
- To watch ***Praying Hands Sunday School Craft*** by Bethel Church Children's Ministry (1:49)
- *Memory verse poster* from Session One



Start it

Ask:

Which film or book characters think they are better than everyone else? For example: Draco Malfoy, Miss Trunchbull, Veruca Salt, the Queen of Hearts.

Say:

We're going to watch a clip from the film *Wonka* where we're first introduced to Arthur Slugworth, Gerald Prodnose and Felix Fickelgruber. They love to make Willy Wonka's life a misery. Watch the clip carefully as you will need to answer questions about it afterwards.

Video

A Good Chocolate from the film *Wonka* by Warner Bros Pictures (Stop at 1:40 'Who's for a hover-choc!')

Quiz

1. What are the main three colours worn by Slugworth, Prodnose and Fickelgruber? **Green, blue and yellow**
2. What chocolate does Wonka ask them to try? **Hover-chocs**
3. Which country did the marshmallows come from? Clue: Paddington bear was born there. **Peru**
4. Whose tears salted the delicious caramel? **A Russian clown**
5. Which country did the cherries come from? **Japan**
6. How do Slugworth, Prodnose and Fickelgruber describe a good chocolate? **Simple, plain and uncomplicated**

Review the answers and see how many questions the children got right.

Discuss the characters of Slugworth, Prodnose and Fickelgruber and their motivation for telling Wonka his chocolate was awful. What did the three chocolatiers do to show that they thought they were better than everyone else? How did they behave?

Say:

In our Bible story today we meet someone who thinks he is better than everyone else, but God thinks differently.

Sing it

Ask:

What does the word 'humility' mean?

Say:

When we show humility, we recognise that we are not always the most important person in the room. Humility doesn't mean that we think we are rubbish and other people are better than us. It just means that we don't see ourselves as better than everyone else.

Say:

Our song for today will help us to understand what true humility looks like.



Song

'Lay It Down' by littlelucel000 (3:25)



Tell it

Ask:

- In what way do people act as if they are better than others?
- If you're really honest, have you ever acted this way? If so, what happened?

Say:

In the book of Luke, Jesus told a story exactly for this situation.

Read:

'There were some people who thought that they were very good and looked down on everyone else. Jesus used this story to teach them.'

(Luke 18:9-10 /CB)

Ask:

Do you think there are people in our world today who need to hear this story? If so, why?

Say:

There are two main characters in our Bible story today. The first one was a Pharisee, a religious leader who carefully followed the laws of the Scriptures and expected everyone else to do the same. The second character was a tax collector, seen as a traitor because he worked for the Romans and because tax collectors were often suspected of taking a little extra money for themselves.

Say:

One was an upstanding member of the community, and the other was frowned upon for his supposed dodgy dealings. Let's watch the clip to discover what happened in the story.

Video

Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector by RodTheNey (2:12)

Ask:

What was the difference in the way the Pharisee and the tax collector prayed?

Say:

Let's look at the book of Luke to find out more about the story.

Read:

'The Pharisee stood alone, away from the tax collector. When the Pharisee prayed, he

said, “God, I thank you that I am not as bad as other people. I am not like men who steal, cheat, or take part in adultery. I thank you that I am better than this tax collector. I give up eating twice a week, and I give one-tenth of everything I earn!”

(Luke 18:11–12 *ICB*)

Ask:

In what ways did the Pharisee think he was better than everyone else?

Say:

The Pharisee prayed loudly in front of everyone, making sure he could be seen and heard. He thanked God that he was not like the tax collector. He let everyone know how brilliant he was at following religious rules and pointed out where he thought the tax collector had failed.

Ask:

Do you think this is how God wants us to behave? If not, why not?

Read:

‘The tax collector stood at a distance. When he prayed, he would not even look up to heaven. He beat on his chest because he was so sad. He said, “God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner!”’

(Luke 18:13–14 *ICB*)

Say:

The tax collector recognised that he was not at all perfect, and he prayed before God with a humble heart. Unlike the Pharisee, the tax collector knew that he was not the most important person at the Temple.

Read:

‘[Jesus said,] “I tell you, when this man went home, he was right with God. But the Pharisee was not right with God. Everyone who makes himself great will be made humble. But everyone who makes himself humble will be made great.”’

(Luke 18:14 *ICB*)

Say:

When Jesus told the crowd that it was the tax collector who was right with God, this would have been a huge surprise. This story teaches us that it is humility that makes us right with God – not the rules that we follow or our achievements. God wants us to follow him with humility rather than trying to score points by doing the right thing.

Ask:

What is the main thing you have learned from the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector?

Discuss what the children have learned from the story.

Display the *Gentleness* sign. Ask the children where they see examples of gentleness in the story.

Action it

The children are going to create their own version of the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector. First they need to make a set of praying hands. The following clip is for the leader's use only to demonstrate how to make the hands.

Video

Praying Hands Sunday School Craft by Bethel Church Children's Ministry (1:49)

Once the children have their set of hands, they can use one side to show how the Pharisee prayed and the other to show how the tax collector prayed. It is up to the children how they show the different kinds of prayers.

They may like to add the following Scripture verse at the bottom of their praying hands.

'Everyone who makes himself great will be made humble. But everyone who makes himself humble will be made great.'

(Luke 18:14 *ICB*)

Say:

Sunday 10 November is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember the brave deeds of those who have fought in world wars and other conflicts. Many of the people we remember on this day showed humility by valuing the lives of others more than their own. On your *Explore It ideas* sheet there is an activity you can try at home to remember those who have fought in world wars.

Pray it

Say:

During our prayer times this month we are thinking about what it means to accept others as Jesus loves and accepts us.

Display the *Memory verse poster* and share it together.

Memory verse

'Christ accepted you, so you should accept each other. This will bring glory to God.'

(Romans 15:7 *ICB*)

Say:

We're going to share our memory verse song for this month.

Song

'Bible Memory Verse Romans 15:7' Kids Sing-along by Kingdomcity Kids (1:11)

Say:

In our Bible story today two men came to pray in the Temple.

Ask:

In what way did the Pharisee refuse to accept the tax collector?

Say:

Jesus wants us to show his love to others and accept them just as they are.

Ask the children to close their eyes and think of someone that they may have treated unfairly or looked down upon. The children do not need to say the name out loud. Ask them to think of ways they could show humility when they are with this person.

What lesson does Jesus need them to learn personally from the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector? When the children have had time to think about the questions, bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



The Pharisee and the tax collector

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Luke 18:9-14



Aim:
To find that being right with God comes through humility



Today's fruit:
Gentleness



Discover

In this week's session we thought about what it means to be humble. Watch the clip to discover more about humility, and think about how you could live your life for Jesus in this way.

What's That Word: Humility by Crossroads Kids' Club



Create

Sunday 10 November is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember the brave deeds of those who fought in world wars and other conflicts. People wear poppies to remember those who have lost their lives because of wars and conflict.

With the help of someone at home, create your own Poppy Sun Catcher to display in your window.

Poppy Sun Catcher Craft for Remembrance Sunday by Heritage Doncaster



Song for the week

'Lay It Down' by littleluce1000



Memory verse

'Christ accepted you, so you should accept each other. This will bring glory to God.'

(Romans 15:7 ICB)

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Children
& Youth

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Start it

Jesus found out that there were some people who thought they were better than everyone else. He told a story to teach them how they should show humility and treat people with kindness.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 18:9-14.

You may like to use the following clip to tell the story.

Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector by RodTheNey (2:12)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- How did the Pharisee pray in the story?
- How did the tax collector pray in the story?
- How was the Pharisee unkind to the tax collector?

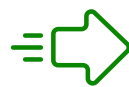
- The Pharisee thought he was better than the tax collector. Have you ever felt this way about someone? If so, how could you behave differently next time you see them?
- How does Jesus want us to treat other people?



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Make your own praying hands and decorate them (see Explore It for instructions).
- Act out the way the Pharisee and the tax collector prayed.
- Say a prayer for someone you know who is often left out or treated unfairly.
- Think of three ways that you can be gentle with others this week.