

## Pharisee and Tax Collector Lesson

By Felicia Mollohan

Bible Reference: Luke 18:9-14

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that Jesus wants us to be humble and not prideful.

Target Age: 1st grade - 5th grade

Items Needed:

magazine pictures of various items  
basket/hat/bowl to put pictures in

Welcome Activity:

Have the children compete in races. You could have them do different types of races: running, hopping, crawling, bear crawl, skipping, etc. Keep track of who won each race. (Notice if anyone brags about winning or if anyone congratulates someone, etc.)

Bible Lesson Introduction:

"What was it like competing in the races?"

"How did you feel if you won a race? Did you brag about yourself?"

"How did you feel if you lost? Did you congratulate the winner?"

Bible Lesson:

Read through Luke 18:9-14 in your Bible, explaining as you read to make sure the children are understanding.

You could use the Pharisee and Tax Collector: A Parable told by Jesus Skit to have the children involved in the telling of the story.

This parable is about two men: a Pharisee and the Tax Collector. The Pharisee was a respected member of society and held a position of great importance. The Tax Collector was hated and a disgrace to the community. They both went to the temple to pray.

The Pharisee, knowing his status (and liking it), walked in with pride and arrogance. He was grateful for not being like the other guy...the dreaded tax collector.

The Tax Collector, knowing his status, walked in with a humble attitude and feeling as though he wasn't even good enough to be there. He couldn't even look up, but only could beat his chest and pray for forgiveness.

#### Bible Lesson Understanding:

Jesus looked more highly upon the Tax Collector because he had a humble attitude and knew that he needed saving. The Pharisee thought he was good enough on his own and wanted everyone to know it.

#### Bible Lesson Activity: Keep or Give

Bring out the basket/hat/bowl that you put the magazine pictures in. Line up the children. Ask a child to come up and choose two pictures out of it without looking. They have to choose which item they are going to keep and which one they will give to the next person in line.

The next person in line chooses one picture out of the basket. They will now have two pictures in their hands. Now they have to choose which one they will keep and which one they will give away.

Continue with this process until all of the pictures have been chosen from the basket.

Discuss with the children about their reasoning for giving and keeping. Did they think more highly of themselves or the other person?

#### Bible Verse:

Luke 18:14 "for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted"

#### Bible Verse Activity: Hand Motions

"for everyone" - point to everyone in the class

"who exalts himself" - stand on tip toe and act prideful

"will be humbled" - bow down

"but he who humbles himself" - bow down


"will be exalted" - stand up and smile

"Luke 18" - put one finger up and then put 8 fingers up

"14" - put one finger up on left hand and 4 fingers up on right hand

#### Evaluation:

Jesus, with this parable, is trying to show people to not think too highly of themselves. We need to keep in mind what truly matters and to keep a humble spirit about ourselves.



# Pharisee and Tax collector


Booklet from:

Luke 18:9-14

By Felicia Mollohan

And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be

exalted."



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Reader from:

Luke 18:9-14

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And He al-so told  
this par-a-ble to  
some peo-ple who  
trust-ed in  
them-selves that  
they were  
right-eous, and  
viewed oth-ers  
with con-tempt.

2Two men went up into  
the tem-ple to pray,  
one a Phar-i-see and  
the oth-er a tax col-  
lec-tor. The Phar-i-  
see stood and was  
pray-ing this to him-  
self: 'God, I thank You  
that I am not like  
oth-er peo-ple: swind-  
lers, un-just, a-dul-  
ter-ers, or e-ven like  
this tax col-lec-tor.

I fast twice a week; 3  
I pay tithes of all  
that I get.' But the  
tax col-lec-tor,  
stand-ing some  
dis-tance a-way, was  
e-ven un-will-ing to  
lift up his eyes to  
hea-ven, but was  
beat-ing his breast,  
say-ing, 'God, be  
mer-ci-ful to me, the  
sin-ner!'

<sup>4</sup> I tell you, this man  
went to his house  
jus-ti-fied rather  
than the other;  
for ev-er-y-one  
who exalts him-self  
will be hum-bled,  
but he who  
hum-bles him-self  
will be ex-alt-ed.”

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## The Pharisee and Tax Collector Skit

By Felicia Mollohan

This skit is written directly from Luke 18:9-14. Jesus is showing the difference between the pharisee who went to the temple to show off and the publican who went to the temple ask for forgiveness

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Characters:

Jesus

Pharisee

Tax Collector

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Jesus: I am telling this parable to you people who trust in themselves that they are righteous, and view others with contempt.

(enter Pharisee and Tax Collector)

Jesus: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself:s

Pharisee (boastfully): God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.

Jesus: But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast.

Tax Collector: God, be merciful to me, the sinner!

Jesus: I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.