



3rd - 5th

March 7-8, 2015

DATE

Parable: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

LESSON TITLE

Luke 18:9-14; Jeremiah 29:11
Adventure Bible (pp. 1151, 859)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God calls us to be humble

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (20 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (25 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

We're talking about pride and humility, tough concepts to grasp. Before kids arrive, ask the Holy Spirit help you communicate truth about it to kids.

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to share how they plan to practice humility this week.

large group heads up

In today's story, Jesus shows us that we should approach God with humility, understanding that we all mess up and need his mercy.

connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

PRIDE VS. HUMILITY

**Break kids into small groups*

- **Give each group 2 pieces of paper:** write “pride” at the top of one and “humility” at the top of the other
- Ask: **What is pride?** Write a collaborative definition on the “pride” paper.*
- Ask: **What is humility?** Write a collaborative definition on the “humility” paper.**
 - **SEE BELOW FOR SAMPLE DEFINITIONS**
 - **Clarifying question:** *We've probably met someone who talks bad about themselves, saying things like, “Oh, I'm not really that great” or “I look awful today.” Are those people humble? (No!) Why not? (They're still focused on themselves.) Humility is focusing on God and/or others.*
- **Place the “pride” sheet on one side of your small group area** (or the room if you're doing Connect Time as a large group).
- **Place the “humility” sheet on the opposite side** of the small group area/room.
- Then take out the **separate sheet of scenarios** and **read the first one:**
 - **After reading the scene,** have kids go to the “pride” side if they think the person showed pride; go to the “humility” side if the person showed humility.
 - Ask for a few volunteers to **share** what they thought sounded prideful or humble in the example after each scenario.
- **Continue reading scenarios,** allowing kids to move to a side of the room and briefly discuss each one.
- **Then ask kids about the best and worst parts of their weeks.**

If you have extra time, remind them of your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.

**You can make your own definition, or use something like this: PRIDE: thinking too well of yourself, believing you are better and more important than others*

*** You can make your own definition, or use something like this: HUMILITY: focusing more on God and others than yourself*



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand the meaning of the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector and (2) identify ways they can practice humility in their own lives

Why? Understanding our need for God in a humble way is imperative to true intimacy with him. This can be difficult to grasp, but we want to help give kids begin to talk to God about what this looks like for them.

Tip: Be prepared to discuss pride and humility and answer questions. As a team, talk about it before the hour begins if that's helpful.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

*For a small group activity, group leaders get a **beanbag** to pass around. Starting with the group leader, have each person in the circle share.

1. During the video, did God show you how you can be humble this week? Share.
2. How was the Pharisee prideful?
3. How was the tax collector humble?
4. What lesson was Jesus teaching through today's story?

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

- Put a **large tear-off sheet of paper** in the middle of the circle
- **Draw a line down the middle: write "pride" on one side/"humility" on the other**
- Show kids **a picture** of a stereotype: On the "pride" side, have kids write ONE word/phrase to describe a way the person could be prideful and on the "humility" side have kids write ONE word/phrase to describe one way the person could be humble:
 - Football player
 - Actor
 - Student
 - Singer
 - Soccer player
 - Son/Daughter
- **Give kids a piece of mirror board.** Have them look at themselves and consider one way they can be humble. On the back, draw or write one humble thing they can do (maybe what they heard from God, maybe something they thought of during the small group brainstorm).

***Pray together, thanking God for his mercy and acknowledging our need for him.**

(Continue on the following page)

*Extra time? Let kids (or pairs) take turns making up scenarios of pride or humility and having the rest of the group go to the “pride” or “humility” side like during Connect Time. Or give kids **blank pieces of paper** and them write thank you notes to God for all he’s done for them.*



special notes

Keep in mind, **humility** isn't thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less. And specifically in this story, it's knowing that we all need God because we've all messed up.

presenter tips

You can preview the "Penguins of Madagascar" clip here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsNNT4hDKeo>

The Bible story video can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufe6zouTq8g>.

script

**Click to play intro music.*

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kid's Club. I'm so glad to see you here! We started out by playing a little game where you took a look at how different people acted when they came to a situation where they asked for, or should have asked for, forgiveness. In each of those stories, the person who did something wrong reacted with either pride or humility. Remind me: What's pride? (Let kids respond.) That's right, it's believing you are better and more important than others. And what's humility? (Let kids respond.) Yep! It's focusing more on God and others than yourself.

These are really important responses because we all do wrong things, and we have to ask for forgiveness, sometimes from others ...and definitely from God. So today, we're going to be taking a look at a story Jesus told in order to show us how much God values humility. But first, we've got a video with a little story about pride and humility of our own.

PRIDE VS. HUMILITY

This is a scene from "Penguins of Madagascar." Now, one of these guys, especially, is pretty proud of their elite penguin team. As you watch, see if you can find one example of pride in this clip—one time that any of the penguins act proud.

Video: Penguins of Madagascar clip

So did you see in any pride in that clip? (Let several kids respond.) That's right, Skipper, their leader, talked about how great they were. He also thought he was better than the others and could avoid getting swallowed by the vending machine. But was he tough enough to stay safe on his own? (Let kids say: No!) Nope, he got stuck too!



script continued

JESUS TEACHES US TO HAVE HUMILITY

Now, how did Jesus talk about being humble? Jesus told a story we call “The Pharisee and The Tax Collector.” First of all, let’s talk about the jobs of the two characters in the story. Does anyone have any idea who the Pharisees were? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they devoted their lives to studying the law of Moses and worked really hard to do good things. The stuff they did looked really good.

The other character is a tax collector. You may have heard an adult grumble about taxes before, but that’s nothing compared to how people felt about tax collectors in Roman times. The job of a tax collector was to go into a town and take money. But often, taxes collectors took extra money for themselves...and people *had* to pay them. The stuff they did looked really bad.

So Jesus once told a story about these two men. As we hear it, we’re going to play a game like we did in Connect Time. Everybody, stand up! (Let kids stand.) I’m going to read you the scenario of each one. Afterwards, go to this side of the room (point to one side) if you think the person showed pride. Go to this (point to the other side of the room) if you think the person showed humility. Ready?

SLIDE: Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed. “God, I thank you that I am not like other people,” he said. “I am not like robbers or those who do other evil things. I am not like those who commit adultery. I am not even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. And I give a tenth of all I get.”

Is that pride (point to the pride side of the room) or humility (point to the humility side of the room)? (Let kids move.) Definitely pride! Why? (Let kids respond.) You got it. He was basically telling God how great HE was. Did he say he needed God’s forgiveness or help at all? (Let kids say: No.) He did good stuff, but in his heart, he was full of pride.

OK, go back to where you were standing in the middle. (Let kids move.) Here’s what the tax collector said:

SLIDE: Luke 18:13 But the tax collector stood farther away than the Pharisee. He would not even look up to heaven. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed. He said, “God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner.”

So did the tax collector show pride (point to the pride side of the room) or humility (point to the humility side of the room). (Let kids move.) That’s right, he understood that without God, he was nothing. He knew he needed God. He had done bad stuff, but he asked God to rescue him. OK, now have a seat (let kids sit).

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS PARABLE

This story Jesus told about the two men is called a parable. Does anybody know what a parable is? (Let kids respond.) Right, it’s a story Jesus told in order to teach us a lesson. So what lesson do you think Jesus was teaching us by telling us this story? Any ideas? (Let kids share.) Great! Here’s how Jesus described it in Luke 18 in the Bible:



script continued

SLIDE: Luke 18:14 I tell you, the tax collector went home accepted by God. But not the Pharisee. All those who lift themselves up will be made humble. And those who make themselves humble will be lifted up.

Wow, Jesus said that the tax collector went home forgiven by God, even though he had done many, many wrong things. But the Pharisee wasn't forgiven by God, because he was full of pride and he didn't want God's forgiveness at all, because he didn't think he needed it.

Think about it: The Pharisee in Jesus' story was a lot like Skipper in the video. He was very proud of his own accomplishments and impressed with how much he knew compared to all the other people around him. In fact, the Pharisee was so happy with himself that he had the nerve to *thank God* that he wasn't like other people, other people that God loves! He cared about following rules more than he cared about knowing God.

The tax collector hadn't followed any rules. But he wanted to know God and he wanted God's mercy, which is when God forgives us ...even though we don't deserve it. And guess what? No matter what we've done, when we come humbly to God, he DOES forgive us and give us his mercy. He doesn't want us to "follow rules" so we look good. He wants us to obey him out of love for him—because he's our rescuer and our boss!

Remember when you're thinking about pride versus humility: Pride is the loud Pharisee, announcing how great he is to the world. Pride is about the self. Humility is the quiet tax collector, admitting his faults *but recognizing that God loves him anyway!*

RESPOND We're going to watch a quick video about this story. As you watch, imagine what the Pharisee and tax collector feel. And ask God: how can I be humble this week?

Video: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Maybe you heard from God. If you got an idea about how you can be humble, you'll have a chance to share that with your small group. If not, that's OK. God might speak to you during small group by hearing somebody else's idea. Remember, there are lots of ways God speaks to us, at many different times.

WORSHIP

Now let's sing a couple songs to worship God and show him that we give him the glory and praise for being our God and our king. The first is a love song to God. The second is a reminder of how crazy (and wonderful) it is that God loves us, no matter what we've done!

Music Video: You Are

Music Video: Crazy Love

PRAY

Now, does somebody want to come and pray for us? (Pray, thanking God that we all need him and asking him to help us focus on him and others this week.)



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per group

- 2 pieces of blank paper
- markers
- 1 sheet of scenarios

small group supplies

Per kid

- 1 sheet of mirror board
(www.discountschoolsupply.com; search "silver mirror board")

Per group

Markers

Adventure Bible (pp. 1151, 859)

The following images, one per sheet, printed in color on cardstock (to be re-used in other services):

Football player, actor, student, singer,
soccer player, son/daughter

1 large tear-off sheet of paper

Beanbag

Some extra sheets of paper

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 1151, 859)

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Penguins of Madagascar clip (please cut it off at 0:59:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsNnt4hDKeo>)
3. SLIDE: Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed. "God, I thank you that I am not like other people," he said. "I am not like robbers or those who do other evil things. I am not like those who commit adultery. I am not even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. And I give a tenth of all I get."
4. SLIDE: Luke 18:13 But the tax collector stood farther away than the Pharisee. He would not even look up to heaven. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed. He said, "God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner."
5. SLIDE: Luke 18:14 I tell you, the tax collector went home accepted by God. But not the Pharisee. All those who lift themselves up will be made humble. And those who make themselves humble will be lifted up.
6. Video: Pharisee and Tax Collector
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufe6zouTq8g>)
7. Music Video: You Are
8. Music Video: Crazy Love (with dance moves)

connect questions

Tell me about the Pharisee and the tax collector.
How can we be humble?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc