

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 213: THE PHARISEE & THE PUBLICAN
LUKE 18:9-14

There were some people who thought they were very good and looked down on everyone else. Jesus used this story to teach them: "One time there was a Pharisee and a publican, which means tax collector. One day they both went to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee stood alone, away from the tax collector. When the Pharisee prayed, he said, 'O God, I thank you that I am not as bad as other people. I am not like men who steal, cheat, or commit adultery. I thank you that I am better than this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I give a tenth of everything I get!' "The tax collector stood alone too. But when he prayed, he would not even look up to heaven. He felt very humble before God. He beat his hand on his chest and said, 'O God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner!' I tell you, when this man finished his prayer and went home, he was right with God. But the Pharisee, who felt that he was better than others, was not right with God. People who make themselves important will be made humble. But those who make themselves humble will be made important."

213. THE PHARISEE & THE PUBLICAN

LUKE 18:9-14



"Jesus spoke a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector."
Luke 18:9-14

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MEMORY VERSE:

"...for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

LUKE 18:14

Review Questions

True or False

1. Jesus told a story to some people who thought they were very good and looked down on others.
2. Two men went up to the mountain to pray.
3. One man was a Pharisee and the other man was a priest.
4. The Pharisee stood and prayed to God, saying, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men."
5. And the tax collector, who stood alone, wouldn't even look up to heaven, but beat his hand on his chest and said, "God have mercy on me. I am a sinner!"

Questions

1. Who did Jesus tell this story to?
2. What did the Pharisee pray to God?
3. What did the tax collector do and pray?
4. Which man did Jesus say went home right with God?
5. What did Jesus say about people who make themselves look important?
6. What did Jesus say about people who are humble?

Lesson 213 Activity

The Humble Train

Count the number of children in your class. Line up that number of chairs in the center of your classroom. Tell them that the chairs represent a train and the object of the game is to be the conductor. Ask the children where the conductor usually sits (the front of the train). Have the children walk in a single file line around the chairs as you play music or sing a tune (you can sing Jesus Loves Me). Instruct them to sit in the nearest seat when the music stops. Most of the children will try to get in the front seat. When they are all seated, congratulate the child sitting in the LAST seat as the conductor of the humble train. Play the game again, only this time have the child sitting in the FRONT seat be the conductor. Pretty soon, it should be obvious to the children that the conductor of the humble train is the one who lets the next person have a seat THEY wanted.

OPTIONAL SECONDARY ACTIVITY:

The Heart of the Matter

Take two bags or boxes and cut a hole big enough to see their contents. In one container, put a plastic baggy with old coffee grounds and a used coffee filter, or something equally unappealing. In the other put small prizes or a cool toy (there is a bin of toys in the 5 & 6 yr old classroom). Cover the hole of the container holding the ugly contents with a paper cutout man that is decorated beautifully; use glitter or colorful crayons. On the container with the prizes place a paper cutout man that is decorated shabbily. Attach the cutout men so they can be lifted to view the contents of their containers. (See the template included here in the lesson for the two men)

Allow the children to peek inside one of the containers one at a time. Instruct them to look inside the container that looks like it has the BEST item inside – TELL THEM NOT TO TELL the other children what they saw! Most of them will look inside the one with the nicely decorated cutout man first.

Reveal to the class the contents of each container. Explain to your class that we cannot judge the contents of a person's heart by their outward appearance!

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of humility, thanking the Lord for His forgiveness of sin. If any children have not responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.

RICH MAN POOR MAN TEMPLATE FOR LESSON 213

