

DISCUSSION GUIDE

PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE & THE TAX COLLECTOR

LUKE 18:9-14

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS



1. Why did the Pharisee think he was better than others?
2. Why was the tax collector afraid to even lift his eyes to look at heaven?
3. Can our own actions make us “better” than others? Can our own actions make us “righteous,” or “right with God”?
4. How can someone as sinful as a tax collector (who often cheated others), ever meet God’s standard?
5. When you talk to God, do you tell him how good you are, or ask him for his help to be better?
When you talk to God, do you pray for people, or about others? How can you be humble when you pray?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH



1. Who are the two characters in the parable?
2. How would you define humility?
3. Who do you most identify with in the story?
4. This week, spend some time in prayer asking God to help you stay humble.

QUESTIONS FOR ADULTS



1. Have you ever made a comparison of yourself to others? The Pharisee made a mistake when he compared himself to the tax collector. What is the danger when we compare ourselves to someone else?
2. Would you say you are a righteous person? What is the danger when you call yourself a righteous person?
3. Count how many times in the story the Pharisee referred to himself in the first person pronoun. What does this tell you about him?
4. On whom was the Pharisee’s prayer focused? On whom was the tax collector’s prayer focused?