

Parable: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

The Building Blocks of the Lesson

Bible Reference



Luke 18: 9-14

Memory Verse:

Luke 18:13b

Theological Themes



Sin, prayer, humility,
forgiveness and _____ (your ideas) _____
_____.

Catechism Connection



*Lord's Prayer – "forgive us our
sins and deliver us from evil"

*First Commandment – "You shall have
no other gods."

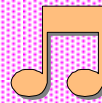
Objectives



To help participants. . .

- * God wants us to humble ourselves.
- * It is not for us to judge others.
- * Being lawful does not make us right with God.
(Micah 6:8).
- * "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a . . .
broken and contrite heart" (Psalm 51:17).

Music



Allow the participants to
choose a well-known (secular) tune
and write words to the song that retell
the parable. This could be done in
conjunction with the hand pantomime.
Have them perform it for an audience.

Additional Resources



Check with your synod office to see if there are seminary students serving in
your area. Invite them to join some activity at your congregation. Learn about various
paths of study at the seminaries such as diaconal ministry, ordained ministry,
continuing education, etc.

Context



Pharisees saw themselves set apart from the rest, set apart to serve God. As time went by this concept of being set apart became perverted and became set apart from common, and of course, sinful people. They began to see themselves as better as and more holy than the ordinary person. Following this (18: 15-17) Jesus blesses children who are the most humble.

Activity



Hand pantomime behind a screen. Act out the parable with hands ONLY as the characters.

OR

Have the participants rewrite the parable and choose modern day characters to be the Pharisee and tax collector.

??? Discuss /Ask???

- *What was the Pharisees' attitude toward others in this parable?**
- *What did the Pharisee do that he felt justified his attitude?**
- *What was the tax collector's attitude?**
- *Why do you think the Pharisee behaved as he did?**
- *Can you identify with either character? Will you share which one and why?**
- *Think about -what about me is like the tax collector and the Pharisee?**

Sending



Ask yourself if there is someone you feel superior to. Pray that God will help you to see how He values this person. Ask Him to change your heart. Do this each day during the week.

Prayer



Loving God, forgive my righteous pretense and help me to be humble. AMEN.