

Week of March 14th, 2021 - Discussion Questions for Ohana Groups
Ears to Hear “Humbly” (Pharisee and the Tax Collector) | Luke 18:9-14

Overview

In the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, the respected Pharisee boasts of his spirituality whereas the despised tax collector confesses his sin with humility. God rejoices in those that humble themselves before God in prayer. Do you see yourself more of a Pharisee or tax collector?

OHANA TIME!

Icebreaker: What experience was especially humbling for you recently?

Ohana Time! (this is an opportunity to be creative and to try out new things as an Ohana Group! Feel free to include children): Make a drawing of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

BIBLE: Read 18:9-14

1. Who were the Pharisees during Jesus' time? Why were tax collectors considered "sinners?" What group of people would be the Pharisees today? The tax collectors?
2. Compare and contrast the prayer of the Pharisee and the tax collector. What would be a contemporary "Pharisee prayer?"
3. How did the tax collector show humility towards God? What kind of "spirituality" does God rejoice in? What is most important to God in prayer?
4. Find an illustration/diagram of the temple during Jesus' time. Where do you think the Pharisee stood within the temple grounds? Where do you think the tax collector stood (verse 13 states that the tax collector "stood at a distance.") Why is their location important in light of Jesus' teaching?

APPLICATION

1. The Pharisee thought he was "close" to God, but his attitude revealed otherwise, while the tax collector displayed deep faith. How much of the Pharisee and the tax collector do you see in yourself?
2. When have you found yourself praying "pretend" prayers (prayers that are self-directed)? How can your prayer life reflect more of the tax collector's prayer?
3. Jesus is our ultimate example of humility. Make a list of ways Jesus shows humility (see Philippians 2:1-11 for help). How can you tangibly imitate Jesus' humility?

PRAYER

1. Pray a prayer similar to the tax collector by admitting your sin and declaring your need for God's mercy.
2. Pray for honesty and transparency in your relationship with God.
3. Pray against pride in your heart and pray for Jesus-like humility.

Got questions or need help? Call or Email John Barrow
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