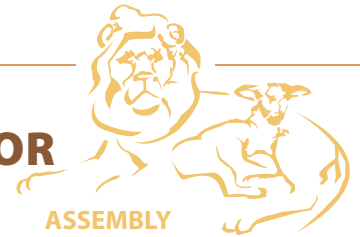


# THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 18:9-14



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### DRESSING THE PART

**Supplies:**

cut pictures of people from all different socioeconomic levels out of magazines, table (if you can find photos of beggars or the poor, add them to your collection).

Prior to class, arrange the photos on a table.

Ask the children to look at the pictures to determine which are the “best” people. Be careful to monitor their comments and attitudes, for their judgments could be unkind.

The goal is then to share with them that we cannot know the condition of the people because we cannot see into their hearts. We must not judge a person by the way he looks but by the condition of his heart before God. A beggar could be trusting Christ while a king might love only himself. Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and explain how it relates to the parable.

### A CHILD PHARISEE

Have the children try to think of all the ways children could look good on the outside but inside be far from God. Here are a few examples you could use:

- Smiling on the outside while they are really angry on the inside
- Talking politely to Mom but saying angry words to themselves
- Saying they love their brother or sister but secretly taking their toys
- Lifting their hands in worship while thinking about playing after church

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### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Our confidence can be in the Lord alone for our salvation. We will never be justified by the good works that we do. If our body is dirty, no amount of clean clothes can make us clean. We might look clean on the outside and fool our friends, but we would still be dirty. The Pharisee was a sinner just like the tax collector. He was trusting that his good works would get him into heaven. The Bible tells us that our good works can never get us into heaven (Ephesians 2:8-9). If one trusts in one's good works he will be humbled in the judgment. If we humble ourselves, confess our sin, and trust in Jesus, then, through the Gospel of grace, God will raise us up.

