

Sunday between October 23 and 29 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 18:9-14](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/properc25.htm>

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115801_ENG_HTM.htm

<http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/pdf/New/Curr213.pdf>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/pharisee.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/headed-for-a-fall.html>

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/phariseepublican.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pen211les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/30-c/A-30-c.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children to get as big as they possibly get – by standing up and stretching their arms over their heads. When they have sat back down ask them how that felt.

(Wait for their responses.) Now ask the children to get as small as they can – by crouching down on the floor. When they have sat back down ask them how that felt. *(Wait for their responses.)*

Tell the children that in today's story they will hear about someone who stood up straight and tall and someone who was crouched over. Listen to what Jesus has to say about how God wants us to act in the world.

Story Time

Materials

Magazine or printed out web pictures of:

- someone well dressed
- someone dressed more casually
- a big house
- a church

Instructions

- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today's story.

Jesus was with his friends. He was teaching them about how to live the way God wants us to live. Jesus was telling them stories called parables. Parables are special stories that tell us more about God.

One day he told his friends this parable.

There were once two men.

The first man wore all the best clothes (*show picture of someone well dressed*).

This man lived in a very, very nice house (*show picture of a big house*).

This man thought he had a good relationship with God (*show picture of church*).

The second man worked hard and he wasn't liked by many for the job that he did (*show picture of someone more casually dressed*).

This man knew that his relationship with God wasn't as good as it should be.

The two men went to the temple to pray. The first man stood by himself.

He stood straight and tall. The man started praying to God.

He said, "God, I want to thank you that I am not like other people.

People who do wrong things, like the man over there.

Remember that I do everything that you have asked us to do."

The second man stood far away from everybody. He would not even look up to heaven. He started hitting his chest with his hand.

He prayed saying, "God be merciful to me. I have done many things wrong.

Please forgive me. I am so sorry."

Jesus looked at his friends. Then Jesus said, "Let me tell you something. The man who knew he needed to fix his relationship, the man who was humble, will be lifted up by God.

The man who thought he was so high up, so good and didn't see that he needed to fix his relationship with God, will be brought down and made humble. Be humble before God.

Be humble with each other."

Response

Project Idea 1: Humble Bookmark

Bookmarks make a concrete craft that the children can take home in order to remember today's story from Jesus.

Materials needed

- card stock
- clear contact paper
- hole punch
- yarn (or ribbon)
- markers
- humble image at the end of the lesson
- scissors and glue

Instructions

Copy the humble image at the end of the lesson – make sure you have one for each child. Cut the card stock into four along the long side. Give each child a piece of card stock and the humble image. Have them cut out the image and if they want colour it in with the markers. Have them glue the image on and if they have room on that side have them print the following **“Be humble before God and others”**. When they are done that invite them to decorate the bookmark by using the bookmasks. When they are ready help them to cover the bookmark with the clear contact paper. Then punch a hole in one end of the bookmark. Cut the yarn into long enough lengths to make a loop for the bookmark. Put it through the hole and tie off the ends. Encourage the children to use their bookmarks to remember today's story.

Project Idea 2: Humble Collage Poster

This response will be a way for the children to work together and experience being humble with each other.

Materials needed

- poster board
- scissors and glue
- magazines
- markers
- stickers (if you have any)

Instructions

Print in the middle of the poster **“Be humble before God and others”**. Have the children look through the magazines (or do this ahead of time if you have younger children) to find pictures of people doing things for others or being humble. Remind the children what humble means – to not put yourself in front of others. Have them cut out the pictures that best describe being humble. Have them glue the pictures onto the poster board as they want. If you have extra stickers let the children use this to finish decorating their poster with them. With the children choose somewhere that they can put it up to share with others.

Project Idea 3: Humble Wash Painting

With this wash painting the children will be able to experience how being humble often keeps you hidden until God's love shines on you.

Materials needed

- drawing paper or card stock
- white crayons
- yellow tempera paint and small containers
- paint brushes
- water in small containers
- newspaper

Instructions

Place newspaper over the work area. Place the paint in small containers and put a container of water beside each. Print up the word “**Humble**” where the children can see it.

Give each child a piece of drawing paper or card stock. Have them print the word “**Humble**” as many times as they can on their paper and as hard as they can with their white crayon.

When they have finished this, ask the children if they can make out the words if they hold their paper away from them – they probably won't be able to see the word very well.

Give each child a paint brush and have them dip them into the paint and then into the water – you want the paint to be quite thin for this next step. Then have them brush their paint brushes over the paper. They will notice as they continue to paint that the words start to show up more and more. When they are done, encourage them to share their paintings with their families and share today's story with them.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.**

Humble Image

