



At-A-Glance: Camp Venture
Kings & Kingdoms Part 1: The Life of Jesus
Unit 6, Lesson 30

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Lesson Aim: To know God looks at the attitude
of our hearts, not our deeds.

THE WELCOME — CAMP GAMES

CAMP GAMES: Heart Relay Race

THE WORSHIP — AT THE CAMPFIRE

JESUS AS THE KING WHO TEACHES

Today, we gather at the campfire to worship Jesus as our Teacher. Through His parables, Jesus teaches us about God's kingdom. In today's parable, we will learn God is pleased with humble hearts. Humble means not proud—treating others as more important. When we confess our sins and focus on who He is and what He has done instead of focusing on our own importance, that's worship!

Read Worship Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4.

Sing songs and worship God.

Bless and collect the offering.

Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook. Recite Camper's Code.

THE WORD & THE WAY — TENT TIME

KINGDOM PARABLE

Camp Covenant.

Welcome to Tent Time! Today, we are learning the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. In Bible times, Pharisees were a respected group of religious Jews who strictly obeyed the Law of Moses. Tax collectors were not respected because they cheated people out of their money.

Listen carefully as I read the parable Jesus told over 2,000 years ago. You'll find it in Luke 18:9-14. If you brought your Bible, you may read along silently with me. Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word

today. Who would like to pray that for us? Choose a camper to pray aloud. Read Luke 18:9-14.

What was the difference between the prayers? (The Pharisee bragged and looked down on others. The tax collector humbly asked for mercy.) **The tax collector humbly asked for mercy—he asked God to forgive him instead of giving him the punishment he deserved for his sins.**

In his prayer, the Pharisee bragged about himself and looked down on the tax collector. What good things did the Pharisee brag about? (Fasting twice a week, giving a tenth of his money.) **To be justified before God means to be forgiven and in a right relationship with Him. Even though the Pharisee did good things such as fasting and giving his offering to God, which man went home justified?** (The tax collector.)

Jesus wants us to have humble hearts as the tax collector did. He is not pleased if we look down on others for what they do, what they look like, or for any reason at all! He is not pleased when we brag and praise ourselves as the Pharisee did. He is pleased with a humble heart. To be humble we must put away all our pride.

PARABLE PAL

During Tent Time, we open our Camp Cooler to find something from our Parable Pal about the kingdom of God. Let's see what our Parable Pal can show us about the Pharisee and the tax collector. Counselor opens cooler and reads the letter from the Parable Pal.

SHARE A PRAYER

Requests and the Lord's Prayer

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

- KINGDOM PARABLE JOURNAL: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector Kingdom Parable Sticker
- CHALLENGE: DAILY WAY OR W³
- PARABLE POSTER PROJECT: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
- LETTERS FROM CAMP
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Humble Hearts

GAME: Hidden Heart

CRAFT: Parable Wind Chimes— The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

BONUS PARABLE: The Wheat and the Weeds

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Fruit Concentrate, Fruit of the Spirit Hopscotch