



# **The Pharisee and the Tax Collector**

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

## **THE WORSHIP - AT THE CAMPFIRE**

**Who God is:** The King Who Teaches

## **THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME**

**Kingdom Parable:** Luke 18:9-14

**What He has done:** Jesus taught about the importance of a humble attitude.

## **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." "Jesus said, 'Go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name.'" Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16b

<b>Unit 6: The King Who Teaches—Parables 2</b>			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
28	The Rich Fool, Luke 12:15-21	Jesus taught about a rich man who stored up things for himself.	To know God wants us to be rich toward Him.
29	The Talents, Matthew 25:14-29	Jesus taught about a master who entrusted his servants with money.	To know we should be faithful with whatever God gives us.
30	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Luke 18:9-14	Jesus taught about the importance of a humble attitude.	To know God looks at the attitude of our hearts, not our deeds.
31	The Lost Son, Luke 15:11-32	Jesus taught about a father who welcomed his lost son home.	To know God always welcomes us back to Him. (Salvation Message)
32	The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30-37	Jesus taught about a man who was a good neighbor.	To show kindness and love sacrificially.

## **COUNSELOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT**

This week, read Philippians 4:5-7. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for supplying all we need to teach Your children. Help us lead by example as we trust You to take care of everything. Amen."

**WHAT is CAMP VENTURE?** Camp Venture is a variation on the Kings & Kingdoms Units 5 and 6 standard version lessons. Both versions cover the same parables. Camp Venture offers different elements consistent with a camping theme. Children are referred to as campers and teachers are camp counselors. Decorate classroom or play area to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: camp tent, backpacks, photo board or album with photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded by stones as a flameless campfire, etc. Camp Venture is most often introduced as Sunday School curriculum during school vacation months but can easily be adapted as a Vacation Bible School curriculum.

**TREASURE TREAT:** The Treasure Treat for Units 5 and 6 is a Kingdom Parable Journal. Each week, campers receive Kingdom Parable Stickers to add to their journal. The journal and stickers are available at ResourceWell.org. You may print the stickers on sticker paper or on sturdy paper and attach with glue.

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# THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
<b>THE WELCOME</b>	Up to 25	<b>Camp Games:</b> Heart Relay Race	Large sturdy paper heart for each team
<b>THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE</b>	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "The Fruit of the Spirit" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "I Am the Way" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "Well Done" "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestion:</b> "Amazing Grace" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Philippians 2:3-4	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 30 Critter Kingdom script or storybook
<b>THE WORD &amp; THE WAY – TENT TIME</b>	Up to 10	<b>Kingdom Parable:</b> Luke 18:9-14	Bibles
	Up to 5	<b>Parable Pal</b>	Camp Cooler containing Parable Pal letter, sturdy paper heart
	Up to 5	<b>Share a Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector Kingdom Parable Stickers, Daily Ways or W's, Letters from Camp, basket for Daily Way Challenge, pencils, poster board, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Fruit of the Spirit," CD player
<b>GOT TIME?</b>	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Humble Hearts	Heart-shaped snack
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Hidden Heart	Small paper heart or heart-shaped object
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Parable Wind Chimes–The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Ribbon, large bead, sturdy red paper, cotton balls, glue, tape, markers, scissors, hole punch
	Up to 5	<b>Bonus Parable:</b> The Wheat and the Weeds	Bible open to Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Wheat and the Weeds Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Fruit Concentrate	Orange paper, marker, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Fruit of the Spirit Hopscotch	One stone, bottle cap, or shell, one piece of chalk or floor tape, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, paint or markers

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME – CAMP GAMES

**Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before worship, we get to know each other better and have some fun with our camp games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to King Jesus.**

Pray.

**Today, we will learn God looks at the attitude of our hearts, not our deeds. To remember how important our hearts are to God, let's play this heart relay race.**

### **GAME: HEART RELAY RACE**

**Purpose:** To introduce the heart theme which connects with the lesson aim.

**Supplies:** Large sturdy paper heart for each team

#### **Directions:**

1. Each team stands in a single file line, one camper behind the other.
2. Give the first camper in each line a sturdy paper heart.
3. On your signal, the first camper passes the heart over his/her head to the second camper.
4. The second camper passes the heart through his/her legs to the third camper.
5. Each player, in turn, alternates passing the heart over or under until the heart reaches the last camper in line.
6. When the last camper receives the heart, he/she runs to the front of the line and starts to pass the heart overhead again.
7. Repeat until everyone is in their original positions. Instruct teams to sit when they are done.
8. Play until all the teams are finished.

**Grand Prize:** On the final day at Camp Venture, all members of the winning team receive a surprise grand prize. The grand prize can be an ice cream party, pizza party, etc. Before closing on the last day, have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party. Always encourage good sportsmanship and cheering for each other.

**Counselor Clues:** All games may be adapted to a competitive or a non-competitive version. Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to compete, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers. For added fun, be very generous with the points. For example: 100,000 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place, 75,000 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 40,000 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and 30,000 points for 4<sup>th</sup> place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.



Jesus as the King who teaches

## THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

**Counselor Clue:** To help campers identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as campers move from one area to another.

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



Read Philippians 2:3-4.

**In today's story, the tax collector confessed he was a sinner. We are all sinners because we have all done wrong in God's eyes. Let's take a moment of silent confession right now to ask God to forgive our sins.**



**Today's story mentions fasting (not eating) and giving ten percent of all we have. When fasting and giving ten percent is done with a humble heart, these are great ways to worship God. However, if we do these things so we can think of ourselves as better than others, that is not acceptable worship. Let's take time now to humbly worship God with our offerings and with our songs of worship.** Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" while collecting the offering.

Sing Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Fruit of the Spirit."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on forgiveness and the cleansing of our hearts.



Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 6, Lesson 30, including the reciting of the Camper's Code:

### **Camper's Code**

I will love God with all my heart.  
I will love my neighbor as myself.  
I will be a light wherever I go.



## Kingdom Parable

# THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

**Counselor Clue:** Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent, or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Camp Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Camp Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Welcome to Tent Time! Today, we are learning about 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 Pharisee's prayer and the tax collectors' prayer?** (The Pharisee bragged and looked down on others. The tax collector humbly asked for mercy.) **The tax collector humbly asked for mercy—that means 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 doing?** (Fasting (not eating) twice a week, giving a tenth of his money.) **To be justified before God means to be forgiven by God 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

## **THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME**

**During Tent Time, we always 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. Cooler also contains a sturdy paper heart or heart-shaped object.

**Hello Campers,**

**When I'm at Camp Venture, I like to think about the campers around me. Look around you now. Notice how different each one of you is. God sees all these differences, too. He sees the right and the wrong choices we make. But most importantly, God sees our hearts. God cares about the attitude of our heart, not just our deeds!**

**Jesus told this parable to people who were looking down on others. Why do you think Jesus told them this story?**

**I think Jesus was making the point that God looks at our hearts, not our deeds. God is pleased with good deeds when we do them for the right reason. The Pharisee's good deeds did not please God because he was bragging and looking down on others. His heart was not humble. What does having a humble heart mean to you?**

**Do you know someone who is looked down upon for something he or she has done? If you are ever tempted to look down on someone, or to brag about yourself, remember this parable and be sure to ask God to help you. He can give you a humble heart!**

**Those with humble hearts do not judge others. They treat others as more important than themselves. Instead of looking down on others, the Pharisee should have been looking at his own sin. He should have been asking God for forgiveness as the tax collector did. Instead of praising himself, the Pharisee should have been praising God!**

**In this cooler is a heart of praise. Take turns holding the heart of praise. When it's your turn, praise God for something He has done either in Bible times or in your own life.**

**Keep cool, campers!  
Your Parable Pal**

# THE WAY *continued...*



## SHARE A PRAYER

**Let's thank Jesus for teaching us to have a humble heart.** Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**Lord Jesus, forgive us for times when we have are looked down on others or bragged about ourseleves. Help us have a humble heart. You know our needs—the ones we shared out loud and the ones we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now.** Pause for a moment of silence. **We can't wait to see the way that You will answer each one.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**KINGDOM PARABLE JOURNAL:** Today, your Treasure Treat is the Pharisee and the Tax Collector Kingdom Parable Sticker. You will also receive a bonus sticker for the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (see Bonus Parable in GOT TIME?). You can discover more about this parable in this week's Daily Way (W<sup>3</sup> for older students). Keep your Kingdom Parable Journal at home and collect all twenty Kingdom Parable Stickers by joining us here each time.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 30 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Bring it back next time to win points for your team here at Camp Venture.**

**W<sup>3</sup> CHALLENGE (For Older Campers):** Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #30 instead of the Daily Way. **Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!**

**PARABLE POSTER PROJECT:** Until it is time to be dismissed, let's work on our Parable Poster Project. Assign one camper to print "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector" on the poster. Using crayons or markers, campers may take turns drawing hearts.

**Counselor's Clue:** Save the Parable Poster each week to hang in the room or create an oversized book.

**LETTERS FROM CAMP:** Write a Letter from Camp to someone in your home and let them know what you did today. Write your favorite thing about today and something special about the parable you just learned. Sign it and take it home.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Fruit of the Spirit," in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: HUMBLE HEARTS**

**Purpose:** To remind campers God honors the prayers of a humble heart.

**Supplies:** Heart-shaped snack

**In today's parable, the two men went to the temple to pray. The tax collector prayed with a humble heart. That means he was not proud. He knew he was a sinner. God forgave the tax collector because he humbly asked for forgiveness.**

**Directions:**

1. Distribute snack and drinks.
2. Camper prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: "What is your favorite place to pray?"

### **GAME: HIDDEN HEART**

**Purpose:** To remind campers that God sees our hearts.

**Supplies:** Small paper heart or heart-shaped object

**In today's parable, we see God wants us to pray with a humble heart. God is the only one who can truly see our hearts. In this game, we will help each other find the hidden heart.**

**Directions:**

1. Choose one camper to hide the heart. Choose another camper to find the heart.
2. The finder closes his or her eyes while the hider silently hides the heart.
3. On your signal, the finder opens his or her eyes and searches for the heart.
4. The class helps the finder locate the heart by yelling "warmer" when he or she is moving toward the heart and "colder" when he or she is moving away from the heart.
5. When the finder locates the heart, choose a new finder and a new hider and play again.
6. Repeat game until each camper has played one or both roles.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: PARABLE WIND CHIMES– THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR**

**Purpose:** Create a wind chime strand to remember the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

**Supplies:** Ribbon, large bead, sturdy red paper, cotton balls, glue, tape, markers, scissors, hole punch

**Prepare:** Cut a 20-inch ribbon. Cut two 4-inch hearts from sturdy red paper. To keep the wind chime balanced, punch a hole about 1-inch from the edge, directly opposite from the strand attached in the previous lesson.

**Optional:** Use a large bead to secure the 20-inch ribbon above the plate. Substitute beads with any materials available: buttons, shells, stones, small metal objects, etc. Display a finished craft.

**Counselor Clue:** Parable Wind Chimes will be completed in Lessons 23-32 as the parables of Jesus are taught. Each session, a new strand representing the parable will be added to the paper plate base of the wind chimes. To maintain balance in the wind chimes as they are being created, punch holes directly opposite from each other when adding a new strand. Be sure to have extra paper plates and 30-inch ribbon hangers available for new campers who come in future sessions.

**Today, we heard the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Why do you think the Pharisee's prideful prayer did not please God?** (He bragged and looked down on others.) **Why do you think God forgave the tax collector?** (He prayed humbly and was truly sorry.) **Let's make a heart wind chime strand to remind us to have humble hearts.**

### **Directions:**

1. Thread the 20-inch ribbon through the hole on the edge of the plate and tie a knot large enough to prevent the ribbon from pulling back through the plate.
2. Tie a bead to the bottom of the 20-inch ribbon.
3. Lay one heart on the table.
4. Cover one side of it with glue – middle and edges.
5. Lay the ribbon down the middle of the heart.
6. Place two cotton balls in the middle of the heart.
7. Lay the second heart on top of the first heart so the cotton balls are enclosed inside.

## **BONUS PARABLE: THE WHEAT AND THE WEEDS**

**Purpose:** To introduce and discuss another parable Jesus taught His followers.

**Supplies:** Bible open to Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Wheat and the Weeds Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)

**Today's bonus parable is the story of the wheat and the weeds.** Camper or counselor reads Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. **The man in the parable who sowed the seeds stands for Jesus. Who does the enemy stand for?** (The devil.) **Jesus said the weeds stand for everything that causes sin and all who do evil. The servants were told not to remove the weeds because some of the wheat could be hurt as they did it. Just as harvesters will one day come and remove the weeds, angels will one day come and remove all the evildoers.**

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." "Jesus said, 'Go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name.'" Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16b

### **GAME: FRUIT CONCENTRATE**

**Purpose:** Campers will match pairs of fruit of the Spirit listed in the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Orange paper, marker, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster

**Prepare:** Cut 18 6-inch circles to resemble the shape of (oversized) orange fruit. Create two identical sets, printing one of the nine fruits of the Spirit on each of the orange circles (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control). Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose a camper to shuffle all 18 oranges, keeping the printed side down.
2. Choose another camper to lay all 18 oranges face down on the floor or a table.
3. Campers take turns turning over two oranges at a time to see if they can find a match.
4. When a correct match is made, the pair remains in the face-up position.
5. When an incorrect match is made, both are returned to the face-down position.
6. Continue making matches until all of the words are face-up.

**Who can remember all nine fruits of the Spirit?** (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.) **The opposite of love is hate. What are the opposites of the other fruits of the Spirit?** (Campers respond.)

**Name a fruit of the Spirit that others already see in your daily life.** (Campers respond.) **Name a fruit of the Spirit that others rarely see in you.** (Campers respond.) **All who believe in Jesus have the Holy Spirit in their hearts. This week, ask God to help you show the fruit of the Spirit that others don't usually see in you.**

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT HOPSCOTCH**

**Purpose:** Campers learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse by repetition as they play hopscotch.

**Supplies:** One stone, bottle cap, or shell, one piece of chalk or floor tape, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, paint or markers

**Prepare:** Paint or color the stone, bottle cap, or shell to look like a fruit. Use chalk or floor tape to create a hopscotch pattern on the floor. Use 10 squares for your hopscotch pattern. Number the squares consecutively. Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. For large groups of campers, create additional hopscotch patterns and provide additional "fruit" to toss so groups can play simultaneously.

**Counselor Clue:** Assist younger campers by having all campers chant the words with each hop the camper takes. Assist in "fruit" toss as needed.

### **Directions:**

1. Campers stand in a single-file line at the bottom of the hopscotch pattern.
2. The first camper tosses the "fruit" into square number 1.
3. The camper then hops through the hopscotch pattern, skipping the square with the fruit marker. With each hop in squares 2-10, the camper says one word of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse: **"The—fruit—of—the—Spirit—is—love—joy—peace..."**  
Note: Single squares are hopped on one foot, either foot may be used. Both feet are used in side by side squares, one foot in each square.
4. After hopping into square number 10, the camper turns around and returns through the course saying the rest of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse in squares 9-2, again skipping the square with the fruit marker: **"...patience—kindness—goodness—faithfulness—gentleness—and—self—control."**
5. The next camper in line tosses the "fruit" into square number 2.
6. The camper then hops through the hopscotch pattern, skipping the square with the fruit marker. With each hop, the camper says one word of the second part of the Bible Memory Verse: **"Go—and—bear—fruit—fruit—that—will—last.—Then..."**
7. After hopping into square 10, the camper turns around and returns through the course saying the rest of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse again skipping the square with the fruit marker: **"...the—Father—will—give—you—whatever—you—ask—in—My Name."** Say "My Name" in the last square.
8. Repeat steps 2-7 each time, tossing the "fruit" into the next square in numerical order until everyone has had a turn. If there are more than nine campers in line, have the next camper return to tossing the "fruit" in square number 1.