



**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

*A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.*

*USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON*



**TALK TOGETHER**

Family conversations with God's Word.



**MORE TO EXPLORE**

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



**THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET**

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



**COLORING PAGE**

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



**WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER?**

You can talk, write letters, text or video call each other whenever you want to share some news, ask a question or just say "hi!"

When it comes to talking to God, it is a little different; the Bible calls that prayer. God wants us to talk to Him; He wants us to pray. When we pray, it is important to remember God wants us to talk to Him honestly, as we would a friend, but also with the humility and respect we might show a king.

Jesus told a parable to help us understand this. A parable is a story that didn't actually happen but helps us understand a truth about God. Jesus's story about the Pharisee and the tax collector helps us understand what it means to be proud. Let's read the story in the **New Testament book of Luke, chapter 18, verses 9-14?**





*HE ALSO TOLD THIS PARABLE TO SOME WHO TRUSTED IN THEMSELVES THAT THEY WERE RIGHTEOUS, AND TREATED OTHERS WITH CONTEMPT: "TWO MEN WENT UP INTO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY, ONE A PHARISEE AND THE OTHER A TAX COLLECTOR. THE PHARISEE, STANDING BY HIMSELF, PRAYED THUS: 'GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I AM NOT LIKE OTHER MEN, EXTORTIONERS, UNJUST, ADULTERERS, OR EVEN LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR. I FAST TWICE A WEEK; I GIVE TITHES OF ALL THAT I GET.' BUT THE TAX COLLECTOR, STANDING FAR OFF, WOULD NOT EVEN LIFT UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN, BUT BEAT HIS BREAST, SAYING, 'GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME, A SINNER!' I TELL YOU, THIS MAN WENT DOWN TO HIS HOUSE JUSTIFIED, RATHER THAN THE OTHER. FOR EVERYONE WHO EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLLED, BUT THE ONE WHO HUMBLLES HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED.'*

## LUKE 18:9-14

The people Jesus talked to believed they were better than others and looked down on people because of how they lived. They were proud.

**In Jesus's story, which of the two men acted proud while praying?** The Pharisee did. He wanted people to see him praying. He wanted to remind God that he was better than everyone else.

His eyes were on himself. It was like he was saying, "Look at how great I am! I am not a sinner like those people!" His attitude and heart conveyed, "I am doing great on my own. Why do I need God?"





Instead of standing where everyone could see him, the tax collector stood far off. He felt he didn't deserve to be in God's presence because of who he was and what he had done.

In his humility, he could not even raise his eyes to look to heaven. He understood he was nothing without God, and he owned his sin without giving excuses.

Both men went to the temple to pray, but only one man was there to have an honest conversation with God. One man wanted to be in the spotlight; one man wanted to have an intimate moment with God.

Because the Pharisee was full of himself and cared more about his opinion of himself and how others perceived him, he walked away from the temple with nothing but the opinion of others.

The tax collector, on the other hand, walked away from the temple having spent time with God. Because of his humility, he walked away forgiven.

**God is near to those who come to Him in truth.** When we pray, God wants our hearts to be humble. We are nothing without God, and we can know prayer is a safe place to be completely dependent and honest with God. While we can't send God a text or email, prayer is how we talk with our heavenly Father. **He will always hear us.**



END OF TALK TOGETHER

## GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING  
GOD CREATED  
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,  
AND SIN PASSED TO  
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN  
YOU AND ME.



REDEMPTION

THOUGH ALL OF  
US ARE SINNERS,  
CHRIST DIED  
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL  
COME AGAIN.

### FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

LUKE

Today's story comes from the book of Luke. Luke is one of the four Gospels and is the third book in the New Testament. It was written so all would know that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

### OT-NT CONNECTION

In the Old Testament, King David praised God for listening to his prayers. Take a look at Psalm 145:18 and see if you can answer the following questions.

- What does the Bible say God will do for those who call on Him?
- King David writes that we should call on God in truth. How can you be honest with God when you talk to Him?

### WHAT DOES PRAYER REALLY DO?

One thing prayer does is get us focused on God instead of ourselves. When circumstances around us feel overwhelming, we can be honest with God about everything. More often than not, prayer is about acknowledging who God is and what He has done and then choosing to submit to His purpose and plan.

### \* DOES IT EVEN MATTER IF I PRAY? \*

Reading the Bible and praying regularly is the best way to grow your relationship with God and become who He created you to be. There may be more than 7 billion people in the world, but God knows all of your ways. (Psalm 139) God cares for you and cares about you. He knows every word you pray, every thought you think and every emotion you feel. He cares about all of it.

### JOURNAL

God wants us to be honest with Him when we pray. After all, He already knows everything we are thinking and feeling. Spend time writing out a prayer. Use words, pictures, complete sentences or just thoughts.

Ideas to get you started:

- What can you thank God for?
- What do you need God to help you with?
- Write out how you are feeling and what you are thinking about.

### READ

Look up Matthew 6:5-15. Jesus tells us that when we pray for others to see us, we are hypocrites who are rewarded with the esteem of others instead of the esteem of God. Jesus also tells us how we should pray in verses 9-13.

Think about a place where you can go to spend quiet time praying to God. Here are some ideas:

- Your bedroom
- A spot in your backyard
- A chair on your deck or porch

# ★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF OCT. 09, 2022

## ♥ MEMORIZE

*THE LORD IS NEAR  
TO ALL WHO CALL  
ON HIM, TO ALL  
WHO CALL ON HIM  
IN TRUTH*

**PSALM 145:18**

**Q: WHAT IS PRAYER?**

**A: HUMBLY CALLING  
ON THE LORD.**

## SHARE

Tell your child about a time when God taught you humility. What were you doing and thinking at the time? How did God help you to not be proud? Why was it an important lesson for you to learn?

## WATCH



Watch this week's Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

## PRAY

**THANK YOU, GOD, THAT WE CAN TALK WITH YOU THROUGH PRAYER. HELP US TO HAVE HUMBLE HEARTS AND LOOK TO YOU INSTEAD OF OTHERS FOR APPROVAL. THANK YOU THAT WE CAN BE HONEST WITH YOU AND PRAY ABOUT ANYTHING, NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE. THANK YOU, GOD, FOR HEARING US WHEN WE PRAY. AMEN.**

## LEARN

With your child, look up and read Matthew 6:9-13. What does Jesus teach us about prayer? What should we be focused on? Are there words that stand out that you can pray today?

## FIND

Today's story is found in the book of Luke. Help your child find the book of Luke. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

## CREATE

Use a whiteboard, sticky notes or notecards to create a prayer wall in your house. Encourage every member of your family to write or draw requests to put on the wall. Pray for the requests as a family. Don't forget to follow up and see how God answers!

## DOES GOD REALLY HEAR ME WHEN I PRAY?

God is omniscient; that means He is all-knowing. When you pray, you can speak out loud, pray silently in your head or even write your prayer down. Since God knows everything, He knows your thoughts. He even knows what you'll ask before you ask it. When you doubt God hears you, remember that the Bible tells us when the righteous cry out for help, the Lord hears and delivers them. (Psalm 34:17) God's character never changes, so it is impossible for Him to not hear you pray.



SCAN HERE TO LISTEN  
WHEREVER YOU ARE!

## SING

Listen to this playlist throughout this series as you Call on Him.

  
**Talk About**



# COLORING PAGE

WEEK OF OCT. 09, 2022



THE LORD IS NEAR TO ALL WHO  
CALL ON HIM, TO ALL WHO CALL  
ON HIM IN TRUTH.

PSALM 145:18

WHAT IS PRAYER?  
HUMBLY CALLING  
ON THE LORD.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_