

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for children

Life of Christ

The two men who pray

Luke 18:10-14

Younger Verse

Love each other. Romans 12:10

Older Verse

Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give your brothers and sisters more honor than you want for yourselves. Romans 12:10 (ICV)

Welcome Time

Ask the kids what it means to respect or honor someone. Share that today's story is about two people who pray. Ask them to try to figure out which man is respectful to God and others.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus loved to tell stories to help people understand an important lesson. He told this story to help some people see that they were being too proud of themselves and looking down on others as not good enough.

When we pray to God we must have the right attitude when we come to Him. Jesus shows us two people. See if you can figure out which one we should be like when we pray.

Once there were two people who went into the church temple to pray. One man was very proud. He had done many things like memorizing many verses and he had done some things to show that he knew lots of things about the Bible. He really thought that he was better than other people because he was so good.

This man, called a Pharisee (fair-a-see), stood up in the church and prayed in a loud voice so that all could hear. Sadly, he was praying loudly so that other people could hear him bragging about himself!! He bragged about how he did right things and did not steal or do evil. He didn't think he had done anything wrong. Instead of honoring God, he was honoring himself!

Then the other man collected people's taxes. He stood up to pray. He was so sad before God that he had to stand in the back. He couldn't even lift his head to God because he knew that God was good and he had done lots of wrong things. This is sometimes called being humble. It is the opposite of being proud. Finally he asked God to listen to him and forgive him for all the bad things he had done. He respected and honored God when he prayed.

Which man do you think had the right attitude when he prayed? The Pharisee, who was proud of himself, or the sinner (tax collector), who knew that he had done wrong

Lesson Goals

Understand what it means to be right with God and respect Him.
Know how to pray and when to pray.

and asked God to help him do right?

Jesus tells us that God heard the sinner man's prayer because of his attitude. That is how we must pray—with an attitude that knows that God is God and we are not! We must tell God our mistakes and ask for Him to help us be clean, pure people.

How do we pray? We talk to God like we talk to each other. God hears us AND He knows if we have right attitudes or not.

When do we pray? We can pray all the time. We don't have to pray out loud. We can pray silently in our heads and God will hear us.

Tell me some times we can pray. (Wait for answers like at breakfast, waiting for the bus, at lunch, before a test, when you have a big decision, etc.) Encourage each person to say an answer. That's right—we can pray anytime and all the time!

The best prayer you can pray is to ask Jesus to come into your heart. If you haven't done this, talk to any teacher. When you ask Jesus to come into your heart, He cleans out all the bad stuff and makes you a new person. Instead of doing bad things, you want to do the things that Jesus would do!

Learning Activities

There are some fun activities to help the kids see the importance of prayer and a right heart before God.

Memory Verse Activities

Gather everyone in a circle. As a ball is thrown to a person, they must say the next word of the verse. Don't forget the reference too!

Prayer Time

Make the prayer collage and encourage the kids to pray for the people on their collage this week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Pray and eat your snacks. Take time to ask questions about prayer during this time. Sometimes, as you are spending time with them in an informal time, they really open up and tell you what they are thinking. It is also a great time to talk to the kids about how they can be right with God.

Planning for Oct. 17
Jesus and the little Children
Luke 18:15-17

Preschool Lesson
for
The story of the Two People Praying

Jesus loved to tell stories to help people understand important things. He told this story to help people see that they must honor and respect God and others.

Once there were two people who went into the church temple to pray. One man was very proud of himself. This man stood up in the church and prayed in a loud voice so that all the people could hear. He was praying loudly so that other people could hear him bragging about himself! He bragged about how he did right things and did not steal or do evil. He did not tell God about any wrong things that he had done in his life. He wanted himself to be honored instead of God.

The other man collected money from people. He stood up to pray. He was so sad before God that he had to stand in the back of the room. He couldn't even lift his head to God because he knew that God was good and he had done wrong things. He respected and honored God. He did not brag about himself.

Jesus tells us that God listened to the sad man's prayers because of his attitude. He respected and honored God. He asked God to forgive the things that he had done wrong. He honored God.

When we pray, we must have the same attitude and tell God our mistakes and ask Him to help us be clean and pure. We must not think that we are better than others. Instead we must love everyone like brothers and sisters.

Pray and ask God to forgive all the wrong things we have done. Tell Him that you love Him and thank Him for loving us.

Hands-On Activities
for
The story of the Two people Praying

Try the prayer activity using tin cans. Plastic cups can also substitute.

Bring a chalk board or white board (also, Contact paper has paper that is like a chalk board or white board). To illustrate forgiveness, write some wrong things on the board, then wipe them off. Share how God wipes away all the wrongs (sins) when we come to Him. Share how Jesus made a way for us to go to Heaven if we believe in Him.

Everyone wants to be respected. Talk about how we show respect to others and God.

Try an object lesson to show the importance of being right with God. Bring a clear glass or vase with water in it. Add 1 tiny drop of red food coloring (if you add more than one drop, it is harder to bleach the water). Share how our wrongs have separated us from God. Tell the kids that God wants us to be right with Him. Explain that Jesus made a way for our sins to be gone. Sin is like the red food coloring. Once we do it, it invades our life. The water turned completely red with just one drop of food coloring. Jesus died and came back to life to pay for all the wrongs that we have done. If we believe this and ask Him to come into our lives, Jesus comes into our lives and changes us. He cleans out all the wrong stuff and makes us pure. We now are right with God. Pour bleach into the water until the red coloring is gone. Just like the bleach cleans out all the red and makes it clean again, Jesus cleans out all the sin, the wrong stuff, and makes us pure and clean again. Share that Jesus is the only way to clean out our lives and help us get to Heaven.