

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Luke

Lesson 41

A Heart that
Pleases God

Luke 18:9-17

Life of Christ

A Heart that Pleases God

Luke 18:9-17

Younger Verse

"All who make themselves great will be made humble." Luke 18:14

Older Verse

"All who make themselves great will be made humble, but all who make themselves humble will be made great." Luke 18:14

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 continued teaching the people about many things. He taught them about the importance of prayer, and praying without giving up. Then He told a story to the ones who thought they were better than everyone else.

Jesus said a Pharisee (teacher of religious laws) and a tax collector both went to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee stood alone and prayed, "God, thank you that I am not like the sinners who steal, cheat, or do other bad things. Thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I give up eating twice a week, and I give you a tenth of the money I get." This man didn't worship God—instead, he told all of the things he did. He was too proud of himself.

The tax collector prayed too, but his prayer was quite different. He could not even look up toward heaven. He was so sad and ashamed of his sin that he beat his chest. He prayed, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." He humbled himself before God and asked God to forgive him.

Jesus said that the tax collector went home right with God, while the Pharisee did not. Then Jesus said, "All who make themselves great will be made humble, but all who make themselves humble will be made great."

What did Jesus mean by that? The Pharisee did good things, but his heart was not right with God. He glorified himself and his actions instead of glorifying God. He was just a person, and he was not perfect. But he looked down on others, and that was a sin. He had pride in his heart, which is not pleasing to God.

The tax collector pleased God because he recognized his sinfulness before a holy God. He had a humble heart, which is what pleases God. God does not like pride. Pride is when a person thinks they are better than others. They don't think they need God. The Bible says in Proverbs 16:18 that pride leads to destruction.

Lesson Goals

- Learn what Jesus taught about two men who prayed**
- Learn that a humble heart pleases God**
- Learn that we must come to God with childlike faith**

The heart that pleases God is a humble heart. A person with a humble heart understands that without God, we are nothing. We need God to forgive our sins. Only through Christ can we receive forgiveness and have our heart made clean. Everything we have and are is because of God. We cannot take credit for anything! We must give all the glory to God.

On another occasion, some people brought their children to Jesus so He could bless them. Jesus' disciples told them to leave Jesus alone, but Jesus told them to let the children come to Him. He said the kingdom of God belongs to people like the children. Then He said, "I tell you the truth, you must accept the kingdom of God as if you were a child, or you will never enter it." In other words, we must humble ourselves before God and have complete faith in Him.

Jesus loves us and wants to be in our life. He wants to save us from our sins. We cannot save ourselves; no amount of good actions can make us right with God. Only by believing in Jesus and what He did for us on the cross can we receive eternal life. Have you received this gift?

Review Questions

1. In the story Jesus told, what two men went to the temple to pray? (A Pharisee and a tax collector)
2. Which man's prayer was pleasing to God? (the tax collector's) Why? (He humbled himself before God and recognized his sinfulness.)
3. Jesus said we must have the faith like who to enter God's kingdom? (the faith of a child)
4. What kind of heart pleases God? (a humble heart)

Life Application

The Pharisee thought that he "had it all together" because he looked good on the outside—the part that other people saw. But who he was on the inside, his heart, did not make God happy. The tax collector, on the other hand, was considered a "sinner" by the Pharisees. But this tax collector came to God with a humble faith, and so was forgiven and made right with God.

God wants each of us to come to Him this way—with a humble heart. We don't need to tell Him about all the good things we think we have done or list our good qualities to Him. After all, those good things all came from God in the first place! We just need to worship Him and lift Him up. Then we will have the right attitude when we come to Him in prayer.

Planning for Lesson 42
The Rich Young Man
Luke 18:18-30

Preschool Lesson for A Heart that Pleases God

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, a Pharisee, 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 him. 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 was a tax collector. He stood up to pray. He was so sad before God that he had to stand away from everyone. He couldn't even lift his head to God because he knew that he had done wrong things. He respected and honored God. He did not brag about himself.

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**Hands-on Activities
for
A Heart that Pleases God**

Have kids cut out hearts out of construction paper, or have them pre-cut. Have them write the memory verse on the heart. Talk about what it means to have a humble heart.

Make a stop sign with construction paper. Have kids act out parents bringing their children to Jesus. Have the disciples hold up the stop sign. Then Jesus says to let the children come to Him, and gives them a big hug!

Play a form of “Red Light, Green Light” to help the kids understand the story. Bring a green piece of paper (for the green light) and a red piece of paper or a stop sign (for the red light). Explain to the kids that they will tiptoe forward when they see the green sheet and tiptoe backwards when they see the red sheet. Share that the children were going to Jesus (hold up a green light) when Jesus’ friends told them to go away (red light). Jesus saw this and asked them to come (green light). Play several times or take turns in letting kids hold up the sheets of paper.

Make a picture frame magnet. Glue craft/popsicle sticks into a square frame. Have kids decorate the frames with markers, stickers, or fun material. Write “I Am God’s Child” at the top of the frame. If possible, bring magnets to attach to the back of the frame. Tell them to put their picture in the frame and place it on their refrigerator. Every time they see it, they can remember that God cares about them!

**“All who make
themselves great
will be made humble.”
Luke 18:14**



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but all who make themselves
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Luke 18:14



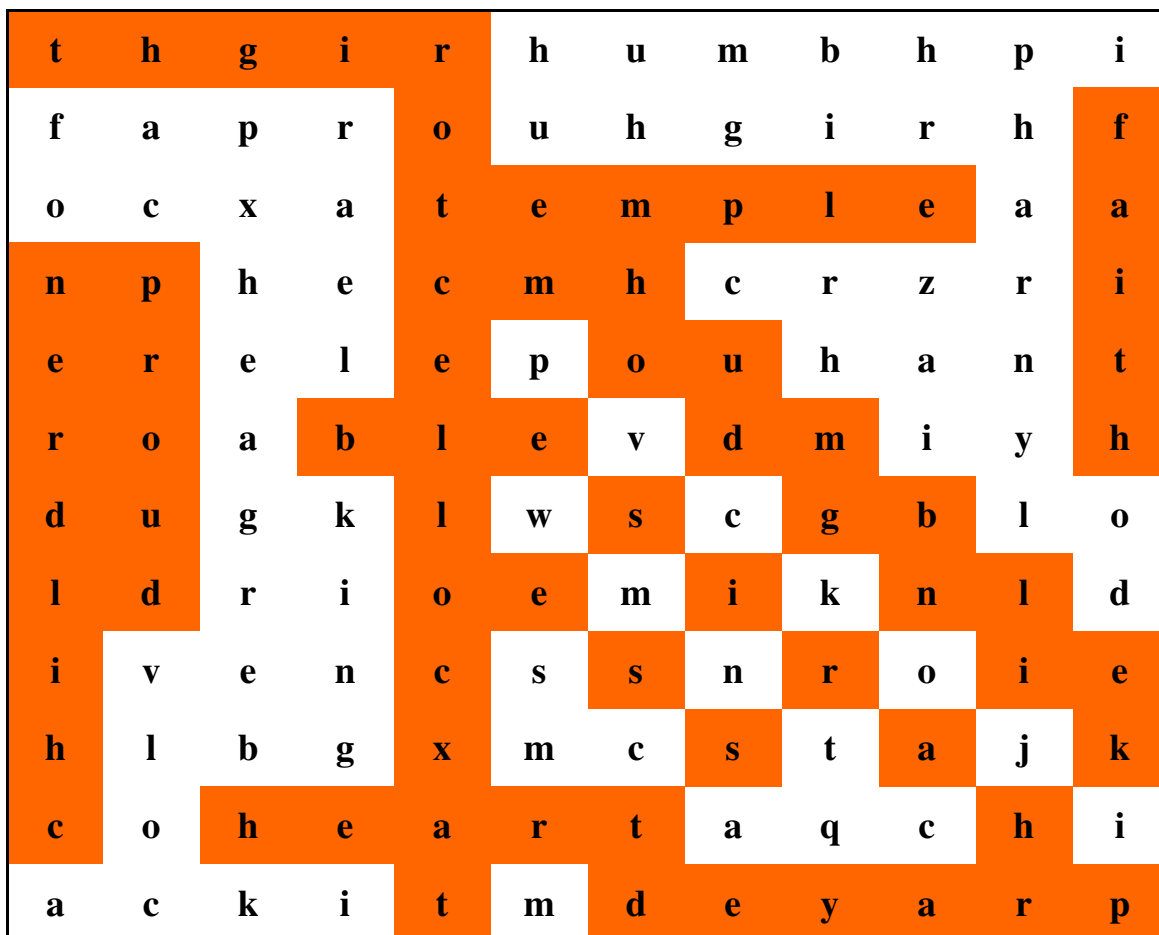
Word Search

A Heart that Pleases God

t	h	g	i	r	h	u	m	b	h	p	i
f	a	p	r	o	u	h	g	i	r	h	f
o	c	x	a	t	e	m	p	l	e	a	a
n	p	h	e	c	m	h	c	r	z	r	i
e	r	e	l	e	p	o	u	h	a	n	t
r	o	a	b	l	e	v	d	m	i	y	h
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i	v	e	n	c	s	s	n	r	o	i	e
h	l	b	g	x	m	c	s	t	a	j	k
c	o	h	e	a	r	t	a	q	c	h	i
a	c	k	i	t	m	d	e	y	a	r	p

Pharisee	tax collector	Temple
prayed	proud	humble
heart	right	faith
kingdom	children	bles

Word Search



Pharisee	tax collector	Temple
prayed	proud	humble
heart	right	faith
kingdom	children	bles



The Pharisee was too

p ___ ou ___.

The tax collector had a

h ___ m ___ le

heart.

This is what

pleases God