

ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHARACTER TRAIT:

HUMILITY

DEFINITION:

Living with the right understanding of who God is, who I am, and who you are

MEMORY VERSE:

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." **PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4**

FINISH LINE:

Humility helps us respond rightly to sin

READ: LUKE 18:9-14

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

(OBSERVATION)

1. Who were the two men at the temple in Jesus' parable? (*A Pharisee and a tax collector*) What were they doing? (*Praying*)
2. What did the Pharisee say to God? (*He told God all of the good things he has done and how thankful he was to better than the other "sinners."*)
3. What did the tax collector call himself? (*He said he was a sinner.*)
4. What did the tax collector ask God for? (*He asked God for mercy.*)
5. Who did Jesus say went home justified, or declared right in God's sight? (*The tax collector*) Why? (*Because he was humble and prayed for mercy.*)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

(INTERPRETATION)

1. How would you describe the Pharisee's prayer. Was he humble or prideful? Why? (*Prideful. He didn't think he was a sinner and thought he could be righteous without God's help.*)
2. How would you describe the tax collector's prayer? Was he humble or prideful? Why? (*He was humble because he had the right view of both God and himself. He knew he was a sinner and that God was the only one who could forgive him.*)

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

(APPLICATION)

1. When are you tempted to think that you're better than someone else because you do good things? What does Jesus' story tell you about that? (*We can't do enough good things to make up for your sin and we need God's help.*)
2. What does it mean for us to respond rightly to our sin? (*We admit that we're not perfect and disobeyed God. We believe the Jesus paid the debt we owe for our sin when He died on the cross. We ask God for forgiveness because we know we can never make up for our sin on our own.*)
3. Is it easy for you to admit when you sin and ask for forgiveness? Why or why not? Do you believe that God still loves you and wants you to come to Him? (*He does! Want proof? Read Romans 5:8 and 1 John 1:9*)