

**PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR**

Luke 18:9-14

This discussion is for the Friday Morning Men’s Fellowship teaching series, “The Parables”, available at leadmin.org/parables.



Use one of these to get the group talking about today’s topic:

• Who is someone that you look up to and try to be like? Why do you admire them?

* What is something that you pray about often? Why do you pray about it?
* Name someone who is a public figure that you consider to be a humble person. Why do you think they are humble? What words or actions confirm this for you?



Go in-depth with these questions. Based on your available time, choose 3-4 that you believe are most thought-provoking:

• Read Luke 18:9-14. This story is a lesson on prayer. What is Jesus trying to teach with this story?

* What did the Pharisee ask for in prayer, and why did he not receive it?
* What did the tax collector ask for in prayer, and why did he receive it?
* Why does Jesus connect the character trait of humility with prayer? How does humility help us when we pray?
* Read Luke 18:9. Who did Jesus tell this story to? Why is this important?
* What would make someone “confident of their own righteousness”? What would that person look like in today’s culture?
* Read Luke 18:13. The tax collector seemed to have a good understanding of his own spiritual and cultural position. Is this important, even today? How does knowing where we stand with God and with others help us?



• Do you have an inflated sense of righteousness in your own life, or in some area of life or work? Take time this week to examine yourself for areas of pride or self-righteousness that might be unhealthy.

* Do you have a daily time in prayer? Consider how you might start the day in prayer, maybe getting up a little earlier and taking the day to God in prayer. This week look at prayer as a way to get your day started with a spiritual foundation.
* Who are you most like in this story—the pharisee or the tax collector?