

Children's Liturgy of the Word



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 October 2025 - Year C

"The tax collector went home justified, not the Pharisee."

Something to Think About

Do you know someone who likes to boast and gloat, and who puts other people down to prove how wonderful they are? What is it like to be around people like this?

The Story

In today's parable there is a Pharisee who, in prayer, turns his thoughts and attention to himself. He thanks God that he is not greedy or dishonest like other people, and reminds God of all the good things he has done. The tax collector does quite the opposite. He thinks about the bad things he has done and says sorry to God. The message of the parable is that we should be humble and not judge other people.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (18:9-14)

Jesus told a story to some people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else:

"Two men went into the temple to pray.

One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood over by himself and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful in marriage like other people. And I am really glad that I am not like that tax collector over there. I go without eating for two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all I earn.'

The tax collector stood off at a distance and did not think he was good enough even to look up toward heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded his chest and prayed, 'God, have pity on me! I am such a sinner.'

Then Jesus said, "When the two men went home, it was the tax collector and not the Pharisee who was pleasing to God. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Group Discussion

This parable invites us to ask the question: which of these two men are we like? Do we spend our prayer time telling God about all the good things we have done? Do we think we are better than others? Do we compare ourselves with others in order to prove how good we are?

Everybody makes mistakes, so real prayer is about talking honestly to God.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will make things fair for all people. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will see the best in other people. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for those who are sad or ashamed. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for those people we find it hard to like. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will be humble and not judge others. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 6: We pray for our own needs. *(Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions).* Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,
We know that you will always
forgive us, no matter how many
times we make mistakes.
Help us not to judge others.
Amen.

Video (optional)

Click to watch the video: [The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector](#)



Group Activity (optional)

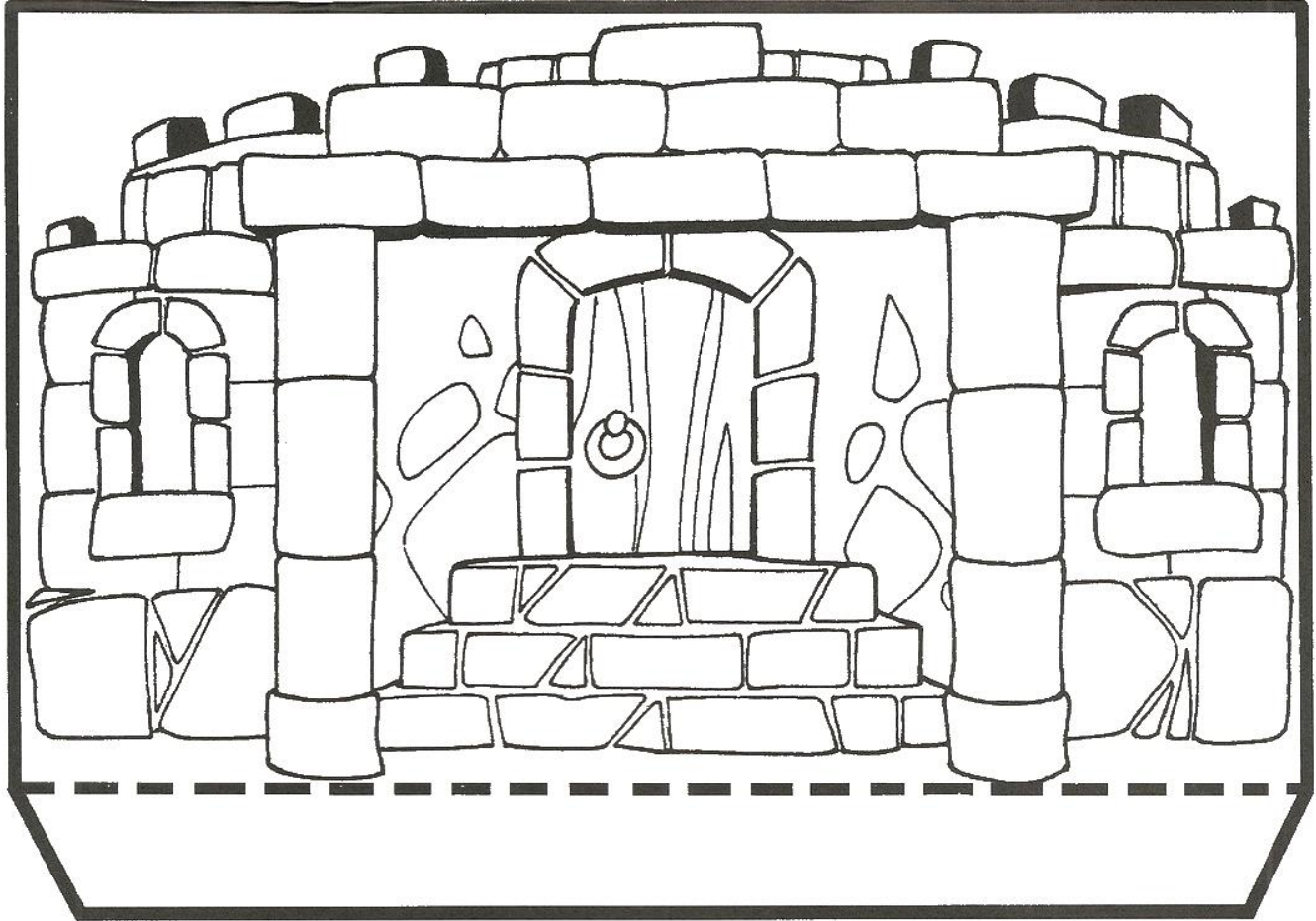
FINGER PUPPETS – PHARISEE AND TAX COLLECTOR

You will need: one template for each child printed on cardboard, coloured markers, scissors.

1. Invite children to colour in the characters and the temple.
2. Help children to cut out the figures, including the small holes for their fingers.
3. Cut out the temple shape and fold along the dotted line so that it stands up.
4. Children can re-tell the story using their finger puppets.



The Pharisee and the Tax Collector



THE STORY OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR



↑ This is the Tax Collector.

This is the Pharisee ↑.

They both went to pray to God.



“God, have pity on me!
I am such a sinner”

“I am glad I am not like that
tax collector over there.”

“God, I thank you that I
am not greedy like other
people.”

**WHO MADE THE BEST
PRAYER?**