



Sunday Gospel Background

In today's parable, Jesus contrasts the self-righteous attitude of a Pharisee with the humility of a penitent tax collector, forcing us to examine how we see other people and how God sees all of us. In God's eyes, all people are worthy of mercy. But he most readily hears those who acknowledge their failings and pray with a humble heart.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** Make the Sign of the Cross and pray the Hail Mary together (page 52 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*).
- Cover Activity • Who's the Greatest? (page 1)** Play the game with your child and other family members. You will need four small slips of colored paper: yellow, blue, red, and green. Mark each with a number: 1, 2, 3, 4. You may also wish to make copies of the game board for everyone. Have all players choose a gamertag (player name), record team members' names, and draw an individual shield. Players can circle a character and four accessories. In the **Gifts** section; players can fill in twenty total circles.

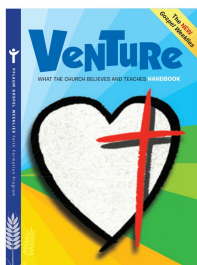
To play: Start with the **Character** section and the color band around each character. Draw each colored paper strip and call out the number. Players mark the Leader Board with the number of points for their color. Repeat the drawing process in the **Accessories** section and have players record their scores. In the **Gifts** section, players can multiply the number of circles they have filled in by the number you read aloud for each color. After you go through all four Gifts, have players tally their scores.
Ask: Who is "the greatest"? Remind your child that this was a random drawing, with no skill or talent—or effort!—involved.
Ask: What really makes someone a great person? Help your child list those qualities. Then move to the story and the Gospel Reading, which will reinforce the theme of who is great in God's eyes.
- Story • Who Should Play? (pages 2-3)** Read the story aloud together. You might take the narrative while your child reads the speaking parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Emma and Kristin want Mrs. Casey to cut Vanessa and Stephanie from the play because they missed a mandatory practice. 2. Open-ended; ask: Does it matter if Emma is part of a competitive league? 3. Mrs. Casey sees how badly Emma feels about not being able to play basketball; she decides that Vanessa and Stephanie will feel badly if they are cut from the play. Ask: What would Jesus do? (This is a good lead-in to Sunday's Gospel.)*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the speaking parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. He keeps the law, he fasts and is generous, and he thinks that he is better than others, particularly the tax collector. 2. He recognizes his own failings and knows he needs God's help. 3. The tax collector and those who humble themselves; the Pharisee and those who think they are great. 4. It means that the tax collector is in a good relationship with God because he admits he is a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.*



- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • God Hears Our Humble Prayers (page 4)** Read aloud this feature as a summary of this Sunday's Gospel concept: God listens to those who are humble.
- **Discuss the *Think* questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. The Pharisee seems to offer prayers of thanksgiving; however, they are self-serving. The tax collector is asking for forgiveness, a prayer of contrition. 2. Being right with God means that we have nothing that impedes our relationship with him. This describes the state of grace a person is in after they receive absolution through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The tax collector humbly admits his sin and he is then "in the right with God."*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 30. Read aloud Section 1 on moral law. Then have your child read Section 3 on virtue. **Ask:** How do you develop good habits? *Choice and repetition.* Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture page 5.

- **Catholic Faith Word • Virtue (page 5)** Read the definition. Ask your child to share how the Pharisee and tax collector show virtue.
- **Our Catholic Faith • Who Are the Pharisees? (page 5)** This feature begins a three-part series that will examine three of the leading groups in Jesus' time: Pharisees, tax collectors, and Sadducees. Read the text aloud and give your child time to complete the responses.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Rights and Duties (pages 7-8)** This activity helps your child see that basic human rights impose on each of us the duty to see that all children attain these rights. The activity calls for a group of ten, but you can do this with just you and your child. (The ball of string is optional.) First, have your child cut out the cards on page 7. Give your child the "Duty" cards. You can take the "Rights" cards. Mix them up and read aloud each "Rights" card. Ask your child to find the numbered "Duty" card that corresponds to it. Discuss as needed.
- **Saints • Saint Katharine Drexel (page 6)** Discuss what inspired this very wealthy young woman to build schools for poor children and found a religious group of sisters.
- **Closing Prayer** Share people or concerns and ask your child to do the same. After each, respond together: "Loving God, hear our humble prayer."



Parent Resources

For weekly materials lists, videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.