

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Pharisees were the religion teachers of Jesus' time. They taught Jews their religious traditions and challenged them to apply the Law to their lives. Jesus had more in common with the Pharisees than with any other religious group of his day. In Sunday's Gospel story, Jesus is not criticizing the values and beliefs of a whole religious group. He is criticizing an individual Pharisee's self-righteousness. In Jesus' time, few people liked tax collectors because they collaborated with the Roman government. Jesus' story challenges us to examine how we view others and how God views us. In God's eyes, everybody is somebody.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week, your child spent time looking at likenesses and differences—in plants, in homes, and in people. Jesus' message is that all people are important. Ask to see your child's lesson booklet, and let the child tell you about the lesson. Share with your child some ways your family can show that all people are children of God.

Promise (Grades K–1): This week's session taught your child to recognize that all people are important because God loves them. Talk about what your child chose as his or her favorite color, food, and book. How did your child draw your family, and who did your child choose as their VIP? Talk about ways your family can show other families just how important they are. Make extra efforts this week to ask your child about the things that are important to him or her.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Your child has gained a sense that the saints show ways to follow Jesus. (The Feast of All Saints comes this Friday, November 1.) The session also helped your child understand that all people—living and dead—are special in God's sight. As a family, you might play the "Praise or Putdowns Game" that appears on the last page of the lesson booklet. Talk about ways you can help one another appreciate how God sees all people.

Venture (Grades 4–6): In class, the children learned what makes people great in God's eyes. Ask your child to share the Gospel story of the Pharisee and the tax collector in their own words and tell what the story means. Talk together about what it means to be holy. God doesn't create people as nobodies and somebodies. Talk about ways your family can treat everyone as somebody. Ask your child how Saint Katharine Drexel did so.

Visions (Grades 7–8): The equality of all people in God's eyes and the dignity of every human being were central themes in this week's lesson. Take the opportunity to talk about how your family treats other people with dignity. Find out if authority, celebrity, intelligence, athletic ability, or other qualities make you think more highly of some people than of others. Remind one another that the value of every human life is the basis for Catholic social teaching.

Pray Together

Together read the Gospel parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Then spend a moment or two in silence, and then repeat three times the prayer, "Lord, have mercy on us!"