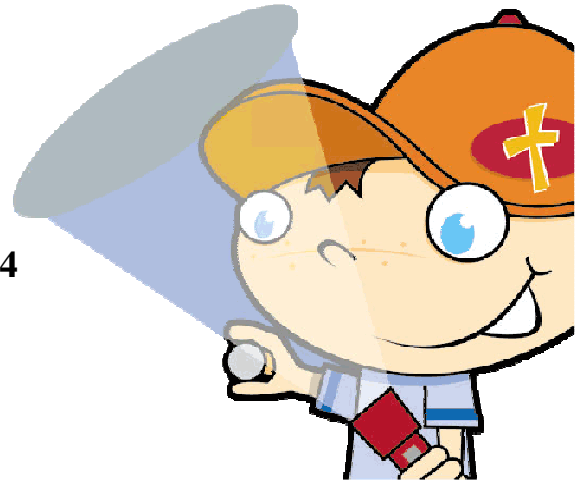


KICKRiCKulum The Parables

Grades 1- 6

Lesson Nine: Nothing To Brag About Luke 18:9-14

Grace vs. works



Pivots – Use Power Point Slides to present to the class

Pivot Trait: Grace – unearned favor and mercy from God



Pivot Point: We are saved only by God’s Grace



Pivot Verse: God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8 NLT

Review Special Delivery objects from previous lessons.

KIDnabber: Puppet Skit
Material needed: KICK RiCK or other puppet

Puppet: *Puppet enters.* Hi everyone!

Teacher: Hi Rick. We are just about to start our lesson. Would you like to stay?

Puppet: No, I don’t need to. I have already done enough to please God this week.

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Puppet: Well, I paid my tithe from the money I got mowing the lawn. I didn’t hit my sister. I prayed louder and longer than anyone else did in my house last night.

Teacher: Rick, it is good to pay our tithe and to be kind to our brother or sister. It is good to pray but it doesn’t matter how loud or soft or how much longer you pray than someone else. It is about your heart being honest and sincere.

Puppet: Really? I thought that the more I did, the better God liked me. So then I thought that if I prayed really loud, and for a very long time, that He would really be pleased with me.

Teacher: No, Rick. God is not impressed with how much we do or how loud we do it. It is all about the motive or reason you are doing it in your heart.

Puppet: I guess I wasted my time, huh?

Teacher: Not totally, Rick. We need to work for God. We just can’t brag about it or think it will make God like us. He already loves us. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to us. It is because of

Jesus and because of how much we do. And, Rick, we always need to go to church and to class. We can never learn too much about God. Even the angels in heaven circle the throne room of God and learn something new about God each time they pass by Him. Remember how they cry Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts? It is in Revelation Chapter 4 and verse 8.

Puppet: Actually that's a relief. I feel better already. I was beginning to wonder how much work was enough work to please God. I'm going to go home and pray again. This time I won't worry I will pray to God what is on my heart.

Teacher: See you, Rick. I am glad we got that straightened out for you.



Special Delivery

Material needed: a home made greeting card that says I am sorry or please forgive me, a cardboard heart that is split in two, mirror, Bible, hammer, grade card, dollar bill, eraser, blank sheet of paper, flashlight. Also include a packing slip with the definition of **penitent** and **arrogant**. Penitent means to express regret or sorrow for sins or wrong doings. To realize or be aware of shortcomings and to decide to change. Arrogant means to feel superior or more important than others. *Mail Carrier knocks at the door at a prearranged time. Select someone to answer the door and sign for the package. Teacher or child opens the package. Discuss the contents of the box and ask: What do you think these items might represent? Entertain answers. Ask a child to read the words and definitions. Ask: Does anyone have a better idea of why we received these items? Entertain answers. Move to Rampin' Up.*

Rampin' Up

Hand out a sheet of paper and pencil to each child. Say: Penitent means to be so sorry for something wrong that you did and that you decide to change and no longer do it.

Arrogant means thinking that you are pretty important, in fact, more important than anyone else could ever be. Keeping these new words in mind let's look again at the Special Delivery items. I am going to hold up one item. When I do, please write the letter "P" or the letter "A" on your paper. You will write "P" if you think that the item represents being penitent or sorry enough to change. You will write "A" if you think the item represents being arrogant or acting as if you are more important than others. Be ready to explain your answers. Ready? Okay.

Teacher, hold up one item at a time. Give the children time to decide if the item shows penitence or arrogance. Some may work for either word. Possible answers include: split heart = P, card = P, mirror = A, Bible = P or A, hammer = A (works), dollar = A (if flaunted), grade card = A (if flaunted) or any awards, honors, eraser = P, blank sheet = P, flashlight = P (aware of sin). Add more of your own if you would like. Have children share their answers and continue with Lesson Launch.

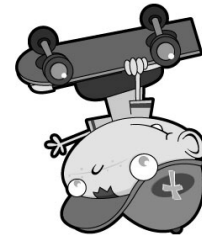


KICK RiCK Grind

- Pharisees were a religious sect and known for how strictly they abided by law and tradition. The Parables of Jesus – The Pharisee And The Tax Collector www.ccel.org/contrib/exec_outlines/pa/pa_33.htm
- Teacher, please read all of Matthew chapter 23 for a full description of Jesus' dialogue to the Pharisees.
- Tax collectors were considered extortioners to the Pharisees as well as traitors due to their allegiance with Rome. The Parables of Jesus – The Pharisee And The Tax Collector www.ccel.org/contrib/exec_outlines/pa/pa_33.htm
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Air Time

(Present questions for discussion.)



- I John 1:8 says that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. So, of the two, Pharisee and Publican, who admitted sin? Write “admitted sin” on the board under the Publican column.
- What did the Pharisee admit? Answer: write “admits nothing” under Pharisee column.
- Who did the Pharisee compare himself to? Answer: write “other sinners”.
- Who did the Publican compare himself to? Answer: write “God’s standard of holiness”. This is an “inferred” comparison. The Publican doesn’t literally say it.
- What did the Pharisee call himself? Answer: write “tither, faster, better than”.
- What did the Publican call himself? Answer: write “sinner”.
- How did the Pharisee talk and where did he stand? Answer: write “loud” as to others and write “up front to be seen”.
- How did the Publican talk and where did he stand? Answer: write “soft” as only to God and write “in the back, not to be noticed”.
- Who was arrogant? Answer: write “arrogant” under the Pharisee column.
- Who was penitent? Answer: write “penitent” under the Publican column.

Lesson Launch continued

Teacher, ask a child to read each description on the board. Ask the class: Now, let’s answer. Who do you think God was more pleased with? Yes, the Publican. For all the reasons listed on the board. Let’s look

up 1 John 1: 9-10. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.” Jesus ends the parable saying that one man left justified or without sin that day. Which man do you think it was? *Entertain answers.* Yes, the Publican. He admitted sin. He was not boastful or proud. He did not compare himself to others. Isaiah 57:13 says that God is our Holy standard so we are to know our sin, not by others behavior, but by what the Word says we are to be.



Pivot Skit: Oily Al and “BAP” or Be a Pharisee

Materials needed: one sheet of paper rolled up like a scroll with the following phrases written on them: I fast, I pray, I tithe, I sing aloud, I have a Bible, I’m not as bad as they are. Small compact mirror, one large envelope

Al: Hello, hello! You know, it’s hard to be humble when you’re as good as I am. I don’t mean to boast but...

Teacher: *Interrupts.* Then don’t. We have been talking about arrogant people. So, thanks for being our object lesson.

Al: I’m here to serve! Listen, I have read a few verses of your text and well, I think I can help.

Teacher: Al, you read a part of my text and you think you are qualified to teach?

Al: Exactly! How many of you kids are standing in church and not really sure what to pray? In the back of your mind, your thinking, “Boy I wish I could remember what the Pharisees prayed?”

Teacher: Wait a minute, AL. The kids don’t want to be a Pharisee. Jesus had very little good to say about them.

Al: Exactly! But my how he could pray. Everyone heard him and my, what an impression he made. Now, you too can pray with impact, with force, with pizzazz. Introducing Oily Al’s “BAP or Be a Pharisee!” Can’t find the words? Then BAP! You’re praying like a pro for only \$29.95. You also get this handy carrying case, perfect for church. *Hold up envelope.* They can see you coming!

Teacher: Al, it’s an envelope for crying out loud! Once again, praying like a Pharisee isn’t good! And church isn’t about being seen. It is about seeing Jesus.

Al: Hold on a minute. Why you even said it yourself. You said, “...for crying out loud.” That is exactly how it is done. Let me finish. In the envelope is this special prayer scroll.

Teacher: Oh come on! It’s a piece of paper!

Al: At first glance it appears to be, but on closer inspection it tells you it is pure Acacia paper. Written on the scroll is all you have to say. I fast, I pray, I tithe, I sing loud, I have a Bible, I’m not as bad as them...add your own and go home justified! The louder you scream, the quicker it works.

Teacher: That’s the worst product yet! You can’t teach these children that your scroll is the correct way to pray! And certainly not by how loud you say it. You are missing something, Al.

Al: That’s right! I almost forgot. Today only, if you buy BAP you receive this handy judgement mirror. *Al pulls mirror from his pocket.* Watch as you say, “I am not as bad as them.” Look behind you and

scan the congregation without even having to turn around. Make your judgements in secret. BAP is some product!

Teacher: BAP is a total disgrace, Al. It is everything we learned not to be in the parable. You don't tell God how good you are. It's not good enough to just own a Bible. You have to read it. God doesn't care how loud you sing. The standard is not in comparing yourself to others. God is the only standard we use, Al. You need to leave.

Al: The Acacia scroll was a nice touch, don't you think?

Teacher: Out Al! Before I have to BAP you!

Al: Wait, not only can you judge the congregation but *(AL holds mirror to himself and admires.)* Look man, I am something!

Teacher: Yes you are! And someday we will figure it out but until then, leave!

Al: Just give me a few more minutes. *Teacher pushes Al out the door.*

Time to **THRASH**

Activities 1st to 3rd and 4th to 6th

Going Up or Coming Down?

Children will have fun reinforcing the concept of arrogance and penitence.

Materials needed: several same sized building blocks (enough to stack two large towers), two old adult white T-shirts with the word arrogant written on one and humble written on the other

Select a place in the classroom and erect one large tower of blocks. About 6 feet beside that location, place the same amount of blocks in a heap on the floor. Choose an area a significant distance away from the blocks where children will have room to run to the blocks. Divide children into two teams. Tell each team to form a line. Give them each a starting point. Place the "arrogant" T-shirt on the first child in line. Place the "penitent" T-shirt on the first child in the other line.

Say: Listen to Luke 18:14b which is the ending of today's parable. "...everyone who lifts up himself will be brought low, and everyone who humbles himself will be exalted or brought up." This is the same as saying arrogance will knock you down but penitence will build you up in God's eyes. Let's work this idea. The team wearing the arrogance shirt already has a tower built up. Remember, arrogant people already think highly of themselves. The team wearing the penitent shirt does not. They do not think they are the best, so God builds them up. The first person on the arrogant team will run to their tower and remove one block. Then he/she will run back to the line and take off the shirt. He/she will give it to the next in line. This person will put the shirt on and run to the tower and take another block off. Then return to the line and give the shirt to the next person. We will keep going until all the blocks have been brought down. Now, the first person with the penitent shirt on will run to the heap of blocks and begin a tower with one block. He/she will run back to the line and give the shirt to the next person. This person will put the shirt on, run down and put the next block on the tower and then run back to the line. This will continue until all blocks have built a tower. Get it? *Answer any questions.* Okay, ready, set, go!

Activities 1st to 3rd

Is What You See, Really What You Want?

Children will learn that things on the outside are not always the same on the inside.

Materials needed: 8 gift boxes or bags varying in shape and size, an overly ripe banana, already chewed bubble gum, baggie of dirt, used Band-Aid, dirty sock, fresh red apple, candy bar, sheet of stickers, dollar bill

Wrap the first 4 items (grungy items) in gift packages that are nicely and perfectly decorated. Wrap the next 4 items (appealing items) in gift packages that are crushed, dented, poorly decorated. Set all these on a table for all children to view.

Say: Look at all these presents. I love presents, don't you? Who would like to come up and choose a present? You may choose whichever one you like the best! But do not open it, yet. *Choose one child to go up and select a present. After this child chooses, ask: Why did you choose this one? Most likely the child will have chosen a nicely wrapped package. Continue until all presents are selected and ask each child to tell you why they chose the package that they chose.*

Say: I wonder what is in these packages. Some look so pretty on the outside. What could be on the inside? *Choose a child who has chosen a nicely decorated package to open theirs first. The class will probably react to the disgusting item. Continue until all **nice packages** are open.* Say: Sometimes things are not on the inside what they appear to be like on the outside. Jesus tells us that the Pharisees looked nice and good on the outside but on the inside their heart was not so good. Just like these packages.

How about the other presents? I wonder what will be inside the rest of the packages? *Allow the other 4 children to open their packages one by one. The class will react with pleasure to these items. When all these packages are open say: The Bible tells us that men look on the outside of people, but that God looks on the heart. Always remember that no matter what wrong or sinful thing we do on the outside, **if we have a heart that is truly sorry, God will always forgive us and clean us up on the inside.***



Pivot Verse Activity

Pivot Verse: God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8 NLT

Choose a Pivot Verse activity listed at the end of the Lesson Component page

Activities 4th to 6th

Warning: Avoid This Area

Children will learn what the Word has to say about arrogance and pride.

Materials needed: Bibles, and the following verses
Proverbs 16:18 Proverbs 8:13 Proverbs 29:23 James 4:6 Matthew 23:12 Romans 3:26-28
Romans 4:1-6 Ephesians 2:9 Galatians 6:4 (Amp.)
Poster with the words: Danger Ahead written on it, marker

Say: The Bible says that faith without works is dead. If our faith is to be seen, it has to be put into action. This is a good thing. However, if we are only working, and have no faith, then we are working in ourselves and not in God. This can only bring pride and arrogance. I am going to assign some verses for you to look up. When you have your verse, write it on the poster, talk over it's meaning with your partner and be prepared to explain it to the class. *Group or partner children and assign a verse of scripture to them. As*

the children finish ask them to write their scripture on the poster. When all have finished, take time to discuss and share their findings with the class.

Bring out Special Delivery item so children may associate with it one more time.



Material needed: Bibles, chalk board, Magna Doodle or write on wipe off boards

Say: Open your Bibles to Psalm 51:1-3. It says, "Have mercy upon me, oh God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

How many of you have ever sinned? Yes, we all have. We can walk around acting like we have never sinned and be arrogant or we can do something else. What is it that we can do? *Receive answers.* David said in this Psalm that he acknowledged his sin. That means that he admitted that he had sin. He couldn't even forget it because it was always before him.

One by one I would like you to come up and write on this board something that you need God's help with, something that may be sin to you. *Read verse 4a of Psalm 51.* David was grieved for his sin because it primarily hurt God. He realized that even if no one ever saw his sin, that God did. If you do not want others to know it, then you can write or draw a heart. God will look on your heart and know that you are sorry.

When all the children have had a turn say: Jesus promises to have mercy on us and to forgive us if we are truly sorry. You can know if you are truly sorry if you are willing to change and to try with all your heart not to sin again. When you have said to God, "God, I am truly sorry, please wash my sin clean by the blood of the Lamb" then by His word He does it! Just like that! Let's all pray that prayer. "God, I am truly sorry, please wash my sin clean by the blood of the Lamb." Watch. *When all eyes are on you, wipe the board clean of the sins that the children wrote!*

Say: In our parable Jesus said that the Publican left the church justified. That means he left righteous or clean before God. Just as if he had never sinned. Today, you are leaving this class, justified. Just as if you had never sinned, you are now clean by the confession of your own words! Hallelujah! *End by reading verse 10 of Psalm 51 and pray with the children that they will start fresh today renewed in spirit.*

