

**LIFE GROUP
STUDY GUIDE**

**LIFE
STORY**

**THE STORY OF THE
PITIFUL WORSHIPPERS**

Luke 18:9-14

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9He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

10"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

13But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

14I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

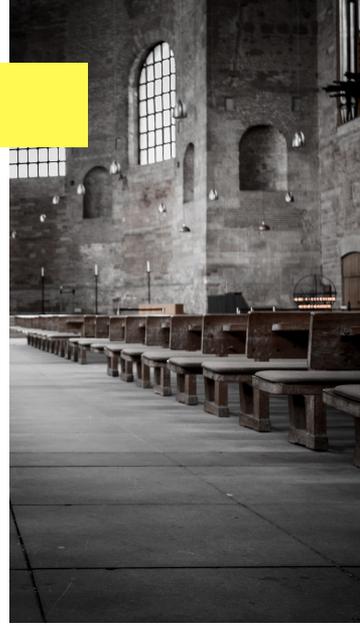
WHAT DO YOU SEE?

What do you notice in this story?
What details stand out to you?

What did the Pharisee pray?
What did the tax collector pray?

What is the stated reason that Jesus told this parable?

What else do you notice in this story?



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit intended this story to be in Scripture?

What does the Pharisee's prayer tell us about his view of God and of himself?

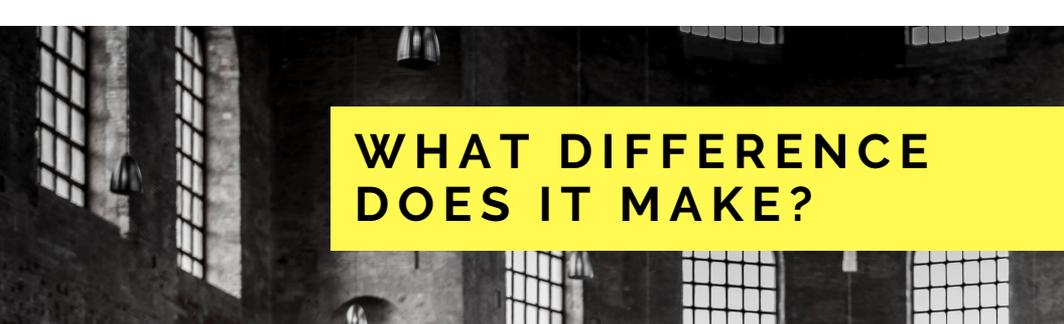
What does the tax collector's prayer tell us about his view of God and of himself?

What does it mean to be 'justified'?

What do you think Luke 18:14 means? How does it relate to the prayers that each person offered?

Being justified in God's sight means that I will stop justifying myself in my own eyes.





WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME? WHAT CAN I DO THIS WEEK?

When are you tempted to compare yourself with other people?

Do you sometimes treat with contempt?

When are you tempted to trust in yourself?

How do we justify ourselves rather than trust in God's work of justifying (making ourselves right in his eyes)?

How can we combat these temptations?

What does it look like to humble ourselves and rely on God's mercy?

How do you think a humble posture towards God helps our relationship with other people?

PRAYER

How can the group be in prayer for your needs or concerns this week?

Is there anything that you would like to thank God for from the previous week?