

The Story – The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

NAIDOC Week

This is NAIDOC week in Australia, (National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration). NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated by Australians from all walks of life.

Hot Topics

1. What do you know about Aboriginal (indigenous) people in Australia?
2. Who are the Aboriginal (indigenous) peoples of your country?
3. What are the relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people in Australia and in your country like?

Today's Lesson...

Often the majority group of people in a country can think they have more power and may feel superior to those people from minority groups. Similarly, people can think they are better than others and look down upon everyone else.

Today's story is from the Bible and is about two different people, a tax collector and a Pharisee (a religious leader).

Vocabulary

Superior: To be better than

Pharisee: a religious leader

Sinner: having done bad or wrong things against God.

Humble: opposite of proud. To think about yourself honestly.

Pity on me: Be kind to me even though I am not good.

Break your group into four. Give each group member one of the following parts: Narrator, Jesus, Pharisee, and tax collector.

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.
2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.

The Story (act out while the story is being told)

Narrator: Jesus told some people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else.

Jesus: Two men went into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee a religious leader and the other man a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:

Pharisee: God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful in marriage like other people. And I'm glad that I'm not like the tax collector over there. I go without eating for two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all the money I earn.

Jesus: But the tax collector stood off at a distance and didn't think he was even good enough even to look up towards heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded his chest and prayed:

Tax Collector: God, have pity on me! I am such a sinner a bad person!

Narrator: Then Jesus said

Jesus: 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 made great.

The teacher will now interview each person.

1. (to the Pharisee) What did you think about the tax collector? Why? What is your reaction to Jesus' words? *"If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself you will be made great."*
2. (to the tax collector): How were you feeling when you were at the temple? What is your reaction to Jesus' words? *"If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself you will be made great."*

Discussion: (in threes)

What have you learnt from this story today?