



# Lesson 3

## Depend on God

### Intermediate Small Group Lesson

#### **Bible Story**

The Parable of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector

*Luke 18:9-14*

#### **Bible Verse**

“I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”

*Mark 10:15, New Living Translation*

#### **Key Teaching Point**

Hearts that depend on God can receive from him.

#### **Materials**

- Name tags
- Snacks
- How Are You Feeling? emoji chart
- A squishy ball
- Handout 1, one printed copy for every pair of students
- Handout 2, one printed copy for every pair of students



## Small Group Session 1

(15 Minutes)

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

**Icebreaker Options** (Choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" emoji chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- As the students are eating their snacks, ask, **"What do you have to depend on your parents for? What are you unable to get for yourself?"**

### **Pray Together**

[Collect prayer requests from the children](#). Some prayer requests may emerge from the check-in time. For the first few weeks of club, the leader can model prayer time for the small group by praying for individual requests aloud.

### **Small Group Game: Word Tag**

Seat students in a circle, then name an animal, type of candy bar, etc. Toss the ball to another player. The child must name another animal or object that starts with the last letter of your word. A player is out if they can't come up with a word as soon as they catch the ball.

**Just as you had to depend on the player before you to pick the word you were going to say, we are going to talk about how we need to depend on God to be able to receive gifts from God today.**

## Small Group Session 2

(35 Minutes)

### **Life Application Activity**

Talk with students about the meaning of pride and humility.

**Jesus said, "Those who exalt themselves will be humbled." Exalt means to lift yourself up, to care a lot about making yourself look good to others. How can this be a bad thing?**

Take student responses.

Introduce the activity below and explain that the purpose of the activity is to help students understand what it means to have a humble heart.



## Activity: Humility v. Pride Compare and Contrast

Students will work in pairs to compare and contrast examples from the Bible and from real life of humility and pride. Give each student a copy of Handout 2 & 3, along with a pair of scissors and a glue stick. Explain that they should cut out each of the phrases on Handout 2, and decide if it describes an example of humility or pride. Then, they should place it in the corresponding column on Handout 3 (have them wait to glue).

After students have finished sorting, discuss:

- **Which examples did you place in the “pride” column? Why?**
- **Which examples did you place in the “humility” column? Why?**

Have students finish the activity by gluing the agreed upon answers down in the appropriate columns.

### **Why do you think humility opens us up to receiving from God?**

Take student responses.

### **What did the tax collector receive from God in this story? What about the Pharisee?**

Take student responses.

### Receive the Gift!

**Prayer:** A two-way conversation with God

### **What did you learn about prayer in today’s story?**

Take student responses.

**You don’t need to know a lot or have special words to talk to God. He just wants you to be honest. He invites anyone who comes to him with a humble heart. Prayer can be short and simple.**

Encourage each student to pray a personalized one sentence prayer talking to God about anything they wish to ask or say.

### Bible Verse Game

Review the Bible verse with a [Bible verse game](#).

“I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” *Mark 10:15, New Living Translation*



## **Reflection**

Give each child their reflection journal. Invite them to reflect on the following questions and to record their answers in their journal. They may also draw their responses if they wish:

1. How can I receive gifts from God?
2. What can I rely on God for?



## Handout 1: Humility v. Pride

You wash the dishes when it isn't your turn.

You get complimented for a good idea, and tell everyone that it was your friend who came up with the idea first.

You make sure that all your classmates see your report card with all A's.

You brag to your friends about how you scored the winning goal in the soccer game.

You clean up the trash left behind on the cafeteria table.

Your teacher praises you in front of your class. Later, you post on social media you are the top student at school.

Your brother got grounded from video games. You tease him by telling him about all the new levels you beat in his favorite game.

You let someone else go first in line.

Create your own:

Create your own:



## Handout 2: Sorting Activity

| HUMILITY | PRIDE |
|----------|-------|
|          |       |

