



encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

disciple:

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

01

Print the PDF.

-or-

02

Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally.

-or-

03

Use the PDF to transcribe into a notebook or journal.

5 Marks of a Disciple

- Know Jesus Intimately
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally



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Week of September 18th // Conversation September 24th
The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

We are continuing our series, “Storyteller.” The disciples had asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus uses another parable or simple story to teach his disciples and us one of His lessons about approaching God in prayer with a humble heart. This is known as the “Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.”

pray.

Before you begin to study this week’s devotions, ask God to speak to you from His Word. Ask Him to meet you where you’re at in your walk with Him. Ask Him for an open heart and mind.

observe.

Luke 18:0-14 is a passage in the Bible where Jesus tells his disciples a parable about two different approaches to offering prayers. Jesus then applies the two approaches to our relationship with the Father.

01 Mark any reference to God with a .

02 Mark any reference to Jesus Christ with a .

03  any form of the word, pray.

04 Underline the “made right” phrases and the word, justified. (Hint: Luke 18:14 and all other Scriptures listed.)

05 Mark any reference to faith with a .



Luke 18:9-14 (NLT)

⁹ Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Romans 5:1 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Galatians 2:16 (NLT)

Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.

Galatians 3:24 (NLT)

Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.



interpret.

- 01** In the parable in Luke, what were three things that the Pharisee bragged about in verses 11 and 12?
- 02** In the parable in Luke, which of the two men returned home justified in God's eyes?
- 03** How is a person "made right" with God according to the letters written through the apostle Paul?



apply.

01

Why do you think Jesus used these two men of vast differences to teach his point about humbling prayers?

apply.

02

Both men in the parable based their prayers on the Psalms. The Pharisee's could have been based on:

"The Lord dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all his rules were before me, and his statutes I did not put away from me. I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from my guilt. So the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight." (Psalm 18:20-24)

The tax collector also prays from a Psalm of David, but he chooses Psalm 51, a prayer of repentance:

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."

Why do you think the tax collector could only get through the first part of the Psalm as he prayed?

apply.

03 Reflect back on a humble response you gave to God who has given us everything in Christ.

04 How has your prayer life changed as you learn more and more about God's relationship with you?

bring it together.

Jesus often used parables to teach His lessons.

Prayer can change us into people with humble and grateful hearts.

Prayer can change us into people who care less about having our good works recognized.

Prayer can change us into people who care more about loving God and loving others the way we love ourselves.

**Prayer doesn't change God; it changes us.

connect.

We are available to answer any questions you might have.

 info@gtwy.church

We believe life is better in circles. Groups are a great place to grow in your relationship with other believers and find encouragement and accountability as you grow in your relationship with God.

 www.gtwy.church/groups

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