

New Testament

Lesson 65 – The Pharisee & Tax Collector

Aim:

- * To understand the meaning of the words humble and proud
- * To learn that God is happy when we are humble, but not when we are proud

Materials

- * Story - The parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-13)
- * Story - Yertle the Turtle, by Dr. Seuss
- * a plastic toy turtle, wood blocks
- * Key words - humble, proud, Pharisee, tax-collector
- * Worksheets

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
 2. Yertle the Turtle
 3. The Pharisee and Tax Collector
 4. Questions about the parable
 5. Activities - colour a picture, spot the difference, build a tall tower
 6. Review the lesson
 7. Prayer
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2) Introduction

Introduce the words humble and proud

HUMBLE - A humble person doesn't think that he or she is better or more important than others.

- * Bowing - We can show humility by bowing before each other. Have everyone get down and feel what it is like to bow before someone else. Have them start by simply bowing their heads to each other. Then have them bend over at the waist. Then get down on one knee, then two. Then do a full bow with their heads almost touching the ground.
- * Good manners - ask for something using polite words, such as excuse me, please and thank you

PROUD - A proud person has too high opinion of himself. He puts himself above others and looks down upon them.

- * Acting proud - Walk around with your head up high looking down at others. Pretend to be very rich. Pretend to be a proud king or queen.
- * Bad manners - telling someone you want something without using polite words

4) Yertle the Turtle

Have you ever known someone who thought they were much better than everyone else and deserved special treatment? This is a story about a turtle who was like that. - Yertle the Turtle.

You can use a plastic toy turtle and wood blocks to tell the story.

Yertle was ruler of a little pond on the island of Sala-ma-Sond. All of the turtles at the pond had everything they needed and were quite happy. They were happy, that is, until Yertle decided that his kingdom was too small. "I am ruler of all that I see, but I don't see enough. My throne is too low down" complained Yertle.

So Yertle lifted his hand and gave a command. He ordered nine turtles in the pond to stand on each other's backs so that they could become his new and higher throne. He climbed up onto the backs of the turtles and he had a wonderful view. But Yertle still wasn't satisfied. "Turtles! More turtles!" he called from his lofty throne, Yertle swelled with pride and feelings of importance as turtles from all over the pond came to climb on the stack of turtles which made up Yertle's throne.

At the very bottom of the stack was a plain and ordinary turtle named Mack. He struggled under the weight of all the turtles until finally, he decided that he had taken enough. That plain little turtle named Mack did a very plain little thing. He burped! His burp shook the throne and Yertle fell right into the mud! And now the great Yertle is King of the MUD.

When you think too highly of yourself, you often wind up taking a big fall, don't you?

5) The Pharisee and Tax Collector Luke 18:9-14

PHARISEE - a man from religious group that was very strict in obeying the law of Moses.

TAX-COLLECTOR - a person who collects money from the people to give to the ruler of the country

Jesus told a story about a man who thought he was better than everyone else. In the story two men went to the temple to pray. One of the men was a Pharisee, a religious group that was very strict in obeying the law of Moses. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: "I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I'm certainly not like that tax collector over there! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of all my income."

The tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he bowed his head in sorrow, saying, "Oh God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner."

Now, which of these two prayers do you think was pleasing to God? You are right. The prayer of the tax collector. Jesus said, "The tax collector, not the Pharisee returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted."

When we are tempted to brag about ourselves, we need to remember that other people are not impressed -- and neither is God!

6) Questions about the parable

1. How did the Pharisee feel about the tax collector? *He looked down upon him*
2. How did the tax collector feel about himself? *He was very sorry for his sins*
3. Why did the Pharisee think he was so good? *He didn't cheat or sin. He fasted twice a week and gave a tenth of his income to God*
4. How did God feel about the Pharisee? *God was not pleased with his self-righteous attitude*
4. How did God feel about the tax collector? *He forgave him*
5. Did both men believe in God? *Yes*

6. What was the Pharisee thankful for? *He was not a sinner like everyone else.*
7. What did the tax collector ask of God? *He asked for forgiveness*
8. Which man was humble? *the tax collector*
9. Which man was proud? *the Pharisee*
10. *Does God want you to be humble or proud? Why?*

7) Worksheets

- * Colour the picture, cut out the words and paste them on the picture in the correct place
- * Spot 10 differences between the pictures
- * Who can build the tallest tower with wooden blocks? Whoever wins make sure you are humble and not proud

7) Review the Lesson

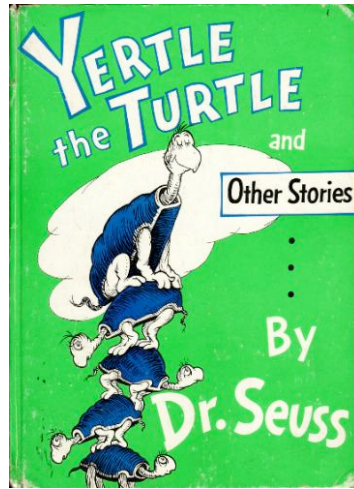
What can we learn from this story? Review the aims of the lesson.

- * To understand the meaning of the words humble and proud
 - a humble person doesn't think that he or she is better or more important than others
 - a proud person has too high opinion of himself. He puts himself above others and looks down upon them
- * To learn that God is happy when we are humble, but not when we are proud

8) End with a Prayer

Yertle the Turtle

by Dr. Seuss



On the far-away island of Sala-ma-Sond,
Yertle the Turtle was king of the pond.
A nice little pond. It was clean. It was neat.
The water was warm. There was plenty to eat.
The turtles had everything turtles might need.
And they were all happy. Quite happy indeed.

They were... until Yertle, the king of them all,
Decided the kingdom he ruled was too small.
"I'm ruler", said Yertle, "of all that I see.
But I don't see enough. That's the trouble with me.
With this stone for a throne, I look down on my pond
But I cannot look down on the places beyond.
This throne that I sit on is too, too low down.
It ought to be higher!" he said with a frown.
"If I could sit high, how much greater I'd be!
What a king! I'd be ruler of all that I see!"

So Yertle, the Turtle King, lifted his hand
And Yertle, the Turtle King, gave a command.
He ordered nine turtles to swim to his stone
And, using these turtles, he built a new throne.
He made each turtle stand on another one's back
And he piled them all up in a nine-turtle stack.
And then Yertle climbed up. He sat down on the pile.
What a wonderful view! He could see 'most a mile!
"All mine!" Yertle cried. "Oh, the things I now rule!
I'm the king of a cow! And I'm the king of a mule!
I'm the king of a house! And, what's more, beyond that
I'm the king of a blueberry bush and a cat!
I'm Yertle the Turtle! Oh, marvelous me!
For I am the ruler of all that I see!"

And all through the morning, he sat up there high
Saying over and over, "A great king am I!"
Until 'long about noon. Then he heard a faint sigh.
"What's that?" snapped the king
And he looked down the stack.
And he saw, at the bottom, a turtle named Mack.
Just a part of his throne. And this plain little turtle
Looked up and he said, "Beg your pardon, King Yertle.
I've pains in my back and my shoulders and knees.
How long must we stand here, Your Majesty, please?"
"SILENCE!" the King of the Turtles barked back.
"I'm king, and you're only a turtle named Mack."
"You stay in your place while I sit here and rule.
I'm the king of a cow! And I'm the king of a mule!
I'm the king of a house! And a bush! And a cat!
But that isn't all. I'll do better than that!

My throne shall be higher!" his royal voice thundered,
"So pile up more turtles! I want 'bout two hundred!"
"Turtles! More turtles!" he bellowed and brayed.
And the turtles 'way down in the pond were afraid.
They trembled. They shook. But they came. They obeyed.
From all over the pond, they came swimming by dozens.
Whole families of turtles, with uncles and cousins.
And all of them stepped on the head of poor Mack.
One after another, they climbed up the stack.
Then Yertle the Turtle was perched up so high,
He could see forty miles from his throne in the sky!
"Hooray!" shouted Yertle. "I'm the king of the trees!
I'm king of the birds! And I'm king of the bees!
I'm king of the butterflies! King of the air!
Ah, me! What a throne! What a wonderful chair!
I'm Yertle the Turtle! Oh, marvelous me!
For I am the ruler of all that I see!"

Then again, from below, in the great heavy stack,
Came a groan from that plain little turtle named Mack.
"Your Majesty, please... I don't like to complain,
But down here below, we are feeling great pain.
I know, up on top you are seeing great sights,
But down here at the bottom we, too, should have rights.
We turtles can't stand it. Our shells will all crack!
Besides, we need food. We are starving!" groaned Mack.

"You hush up your mouth!" howled the mighty King Yertle.
"You've no right to talk to the world's highest turtle.
I rule from the clouds! Over land! Over sea!
There's nothing, no, NOTHING, that's higher than me!"

But, while he was shouting, he saw with surprise
That the moon of the evening was starting to rise
Up over his head in the darkening skies.
"What's THAT?" snorted Yertle. "Say, what IS that thing
That dares to be higher than Yertle the King?
I shall not allow it! I'll go higher still!
I'll build my throne higher! I can and I will!
I'll call some more turtles. I'll stack 'em to heaven!
I need 'bout five thousand, six hundred and seven!"

But, as Yertle, the Turtle King, lifted his hand
And started to order and give the command,
That plain little turtle below in the stack,
That plain little turtle whose name was just Mack,
Decided he'd taken enough. And he had.
And that plain little lad got a bit mad.
And that plain little Mack did a plain little thing.
He burped!
And his burp shook the throne of the king!

And Yertle the Turtle, the king of the trees,
The king of the air and the birds and the bees,
The king of a house and a cow and a mule...
Well, that was the end of the Turtle King's rule!
For Yertle, the King of all Sala-ma-Sond,
Fell off his high throne and fell Plunk! in the pond!

And today the great Yertle, that Marvelous he,
Is King of the Mud. That is all he can see.
And the turtles, of course... all the turtles are free
As turtles and, maybe, all creatures should be.

"You hush up your mouth!" howled the mighty King Yertle.
"You've no right to talk to the world's highest turtle.
I rule from the clouds! Over land! Over sea!
There's nothing, no, NOTHING, that's higher than me!"





Pharisee

tax collector

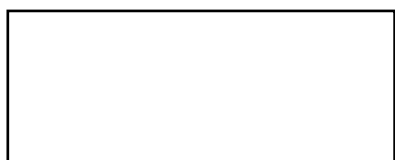
humble

proud

Pharisee and Tax Collector



Spot 10 differences between the pictures



proud

proud

proud

humble

humble

humble

Pharisee

Pharisee

Pharisee

tax collector

tax collector

tax collector