



LENTEN BOOK  
SERIES

# BOOK 2-PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

## LESSON TO ACCOMPANY THE MINI BOOK

*To assemble the mini book: fold the paper on all lines (dotted & solid), then fold the paper in half width wise, cut on the solid line, fold book together. Encourage your children if they would like to color the book as you read it together.*

### Cover Page

Explain: Today we are going to talk about a very special parable.

Ask: Does anyone know what a parable is?

Answer: It is a special story with a lesson that Jesus taught us in the Gospels.

Explain: Most parables teach Christians a lesson about good and bad.

Ask: Do you know of a story that has a lesson about good and bad?  
*Answers can vary but a good example is The Boy Who Cried Wolf. This teaches us about lying.*

Explain: We are going to listen and read about two men who went to temple, or church, to pray to God. It's the story of the Publican and the Pharisee.

### Page 1

Explain: Jesus started telling this story by saying that there were two men who went to a temple to pray. One of them was a Pharisee.

Ask: Do you know what a Pharisee is?

Answer: A Pharisee was a religious man. He went to a lot of school (educated) and was like a doctor-priest. Everyone really liked the Pharisee. He was a smart man and was very respected.

Explain: The Pharisee started to pray to God. He was praying kind of loud.  
*Speak in a loud emotional voice the way the Pharisee did.*

"God, I thank you that I am not like OTHER PEOPLE, robbers and evildoers, or even like this tax collector. I fast and give away to the poor."

He was telling God that he was so happy he was not like the bad people.

Ask: Do you know any examples of bad people?

*Answers can vary but can be people who steal, yell, do mean things, or people who go to jail.*

## Page 2

Explain: The Pharisee was bragging about all the GOOD things he does.

Ask: Do you know what the word brag means?

*You can write their answers down on a chalk or white board.*

Answers can be: It means that you say how you can do things better than someone else. An example would be if you told your friend: "I am the best at coloring/drawing/playing ball. I am so much better than you!"

Explain: The Pharisee was focused only on himself. He kept saying "Me, Me, Me!" He does thank God, but he is also bragging, he is being full of pride. Pride is when we think about how good we are and it lets us forget about God and anyone else. While doing this the Pharisee thinks he is very good and better than anyone else.

## Page 3

Explain: Then Jesus tells us about the other man that went to the temple to pray. He was a Publican, which was a tax collector.

Ask: Do you know what a tax collector is?

Answer: a tax collector is someone who is in charge of taking money from people and giving it to the government. But, in the time of Jesus a lot of the tax collectors were known to be stealers of money, like Zacchaeus. The tax collector was not liked by many people because he was a liar and stole.

## Page 4

Explain: The Publican was standing in the back of the temple and he said, "God, have mercy on me!" The Publican prayed to God by focusing on Him. He also focused on how he had made mistakes and asked God to have mercy on him. The publican was very humble, he realized how he was not perfect. He was the opposite of the Pharisee, who was full of pride.

Ask: Do you know what mercy means?

*You can write their answers down on a chalk or white board.*

Answers can be: It means to forgive someone instead of making them feel bad and to be nice and not punish them. God's mercy means He loves us even if we do something that makes Him sad (for example sinning).

*You can give this example.*

An example of an adult/parent/guardian having mercy would be if you did something to hurt your brother/sister/friend and instead of giving a punishment/consequence we would say that we understood that it was a mistake but we would choose not to give you a punishment/consequence.

## Page 5

Ask: Do you remember what pride means? Which man in the story was full of pride? What did he do?

Answers: Pride means to brag about yourself. It also is more than just being happy about who we are and what we do. Jesus is not telling us that we cannot be happy and proud of our achievements. The lesson we learn about pride is that we cannot put ourselves first and think that we are better than other people.

The man that was full of pride in the story was the Pharisee.

When he went to temple to pray he prayed in a way that did not make God happy, because he was full of pride and was bragging about himself.

Ask: Do you remember what humble means? Which man in the story was humble? What did he do?

Answers: Humble means that you do not brag about yourself. It can also mean that you realize when you make mistakes and are not always doing the right thing. The lesson we learn about humility is that we are all equal and God loves us even if we make mistakes.

Explain: Everyday in every activity that we do, from playing with our toys, watching a show, chores, speaking with our parents and grandparents, going to Church, at the play ground, and in activities we need to "STOP" and make sure that what we are doing, how we are speaking, how we are acting is what God wants us to do and what makes God happy.

## Page 6

Explain: When we speak to God, when we pray to Him, we need to make sure that we are like the Publican, the tax collector. We all make mistakes. We are all sinners. But God always loves us and will always forgive us. We need to make sure that we always remember this.

There is a special verse from the book of James that can help us.

*Encourage the children to memorize this verse. You can also write it/print it and put it at your icon corner or on your fridge where you can all be reminded of this verse. You can also print the verse that can be found in the Google Folder.*

"Humble yourself before God and He will praise you." James 4:10

God knows everything we do and do not do. It is not easy to be humble. Sometimes it can be easier to be full of pride. But the harder we work at being humble the easier it will become. As we start this special time preparing for Great Lent we want to copy the Publican and ask God for His help and mercy to love Him more than anyone or anything else.

Remember that the pride of the Pharisee made him forget about God. Let us always remember to pray: "God, have mercy on me!"

## Back Cover

Write child's name on the book (if child can't write you can help them).

ME, ME,  
ME, ME

Prayed by saying how good he was and how bad the Publican was.



Religious, wise, and respected

## Pharisee

GOD, HAVE  
MERCY  
ON ME!

Prayed by focusing on God and how he is a sinner.



Tax Collector, steals, not respected

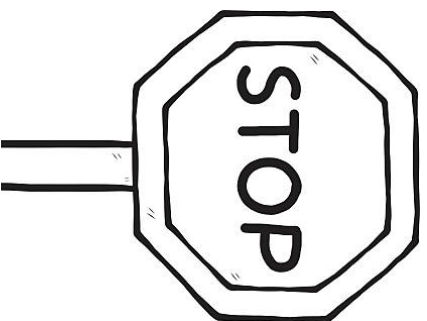
## Publican



## Publican & Pharisee

LENTEN SERIES BOOK 2

## Pride vs Humility



Is what you are doing going to make God happy?



This book belongs to the Servant of God:

## Praying

Humble yourself before God and He will praise you. (James 4:10)

