

Bible background

Luke 18:9-14

Aim of lesson

To show that God is happy when we are humble, but sad when we are proud and boastful.

Preparation required

You will either need two hats for the different characters or your own two glove puppets made up from the activity sheet.

Colouring Materials, sellotape, scissors. If you cannot memorise all the rhyme, get to know it well and have a copy written out in a position where you can still look at the children whilst glancing at the words.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Introduce the story Jesus told of two men who went to the temple to pray to God. Tell the whole story including Jesus' comment about which prayer God was glad to hear and answer.
2. Say or read the rhyme to the children. Dramatise it as far as possible by the expression of your voice and by using the two hats to show which character you represent during each part of the rhyme. Alternatively dramatise the rhyme by using the two glove puppets. The details in the rhyme are of course not the details in the Bible narrative, they are intended to clarify a boastful and humble attitude for the infants.
3. Ask the children what sort of things people say when they boast. Ask if God likes to hear that. Ask next what sort of things a humble person says to God and what God feels and does when he hears a prayer like that. You may like to have the prayer time here.
4. Ask the children to make the glove puppets from the activity sheets. You can then repeat the rhyme as they 'act' with their puppets. Encourage the children to say the second and fourth line of the last verse.

Alternative activities

1. You could make a collage picture of the two men.
2. If you have room, get the children to move around like the proud man, standing up straight and tall, head high, chest out, striding around, talking loudly, arms raised, etc. Next, get them to pretend to be the humble man, kneeling down, curling up, whispering, etc.
3. Make Plasticine models of the two men, emphasizing the difference in posture, one standing tall, arms raised, the other kneeling or lying down, face to the floor.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they ever boast about themselves or their clothes or toys. Ask how God feels when he hears the boasting. Talk about praising others for coming first, having a new coat etc.

Prayer

Ask who would like to say a prayer saying sorry for boasting.

Verse

'Do not keep talking so proudly.' 1 Samuel 2:3.

Rhyme

The Proud Man Said

The proud man said:
"I'm very very good
I never tell lies
I do everything I should."
"I'm always the best
And run so fast
That if you race with me
You're bound to come last."
"I'm better than him
At everything I do
And I'm ever so glad
I'm not as bad as you."
"Just look at my coat
It's the best there is.
And my new shoes
Are better than his."
"In any sort of test
I get the most."
And when he spoke to God
All he did was boast.

The humble man said:
"I'm not always good
Though I often try
I don't do everything I should."
"I'm sorry I was cross
I didn't mean to shout
And those angry words I said
Just sort of slipped out."
"Will you forgive me, please
For the things I've done
For I'm really very sorry
If I've hurt anyone."

When the humble man prayed
God forgave him and was glad
But the proud man's boasts
Just made God sad.