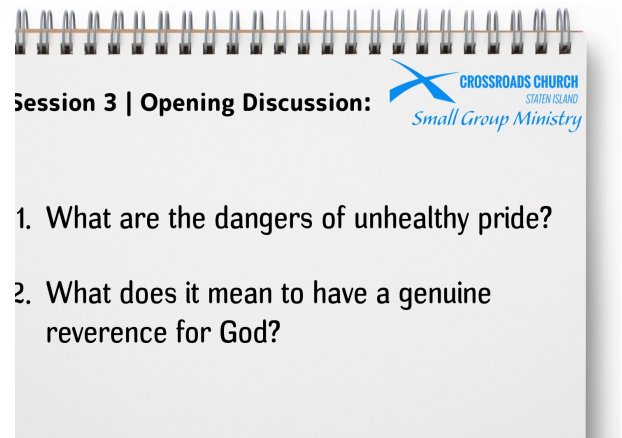

Session 3 | Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Session 3 | Memory Verse:

**"I can do all things through
Christ, who strengthens me."**

Philippians 4:13 / EHV



Session 3 | Opening Discussion:

1. What are the dangers of unhealthy pride?
2. What does it mean to have a genuine reverence for God?

Main Point: The parable speaks to those who are overly confident in their own righteousness and look down upon others.

Main Characters:

Pharisees: Highly respected religious leaders, often known for strict adherence to the law and religious practices.

Tax Collectors (Publicans): Despised figures, often viewed as traitors and extortioners for working with the Roman authorities.

1. Release unhealthy pride from my prayers and overall perspective 9-12

Luke 18:9-12 / CSB, "He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.'

Romans 12:3 / CSB, "Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you."

2. Respond to God with repentance and reliance on His mercy 13

Luke 18:13 / CSB, "But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!'

3. Remember that God rewards humility 14

Luke 18:14 / CSB, "I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

James 4:6 / CSB, ..."God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Discussion Questions:



1. Examine the characters in this story. What lessons can we learn from their examples?
2. Why is humility important in your relationship with God and with others?

Praise and Prayer Requests: