

The Pharisee and The Tax Collector

Babies and Toddlers

Bible Passage: Luke 15

Key Passage: Mark 6:34

Main Point: Jesus told stories about God.

The Bible Story (Watch this week's [IDC Kids Preschool Video](#))

Jesus told a story to people who thought they were better than everyone else because of the good things they did. Jesus told about two men: a teacher of God's words and a tax collector. The men went to the temple to pray. The teacher said, "God, I thank You that I am not like other people. I am not greedy like this tax collector. I obey Your rules, and I give back to You some of everything I get." But the tax collector was sorry for his wrong choices. He knew he did not deserve God's love. He bowed his head and said, "God, forgive me!" Jesus told the people that God forgave the tax collector and not the teacher. All of us need God to forgive us.

Gospel Gems

Jesus told a story about God's forgiveness.

The tax collector asked God to forgive him.

God forgives us through His Son, Jesus.

Babies Activities

Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size [Bibles](#) for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Luke 15. Say the Gospel Gems.

Say: Jesus told stories about God. Jesus told a story about God's forgiveness. God forgives us through His Son, Jesus. [*Pray.*]

Sing a Song

Sing the first verse of "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus."

"Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;

Things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here;

Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,

Stories of Jesus, tell them to me."

Say: Jesus told stories about God. Jesus told a story about God's forgiveness. God forgives us through His Son, Jesus.

Make photo art

Take [pictures](#) of the babies. [Cut](#) a heart shape out of a [foam sheet](#) to make a picture frame. [Glue](#) the frame to the picture and provide [adhesive foam shapes](#) for babies to stick to the frame.

Say: Jesus told stories about God. God forgives us through His Son, Jesus, because He loves us.

Shake coins

Provide several coins in clear plastic spice jars and seal them with duct tape. Invite babies to shake the jars to hear the coins.

Say: **Jesus told stories about God.** Jesus told a story about forgiveness. The tax collector asked God to forgive him. God forgives us through His Son, Jesus.

Toddler Activities

Write with dry erase boards

Provide unscented dry erase markers or dry erase crayons and small dry erase boards. Once toddlers have written all over the boards, wipe them clean with an eraser.

Say: **Jesus told stories about God.** Jesus told a story about God's forgiveness. When we say we are sorry to God, He forgives us and wipes away our wrong choices.

Collect taxes

Provide toy coins and play money. Give each child the same amount. Go around the room collecting taxes.

Say: **Jesus told stories about God.** The tax collector took money from people. He asked God to forgive him, and God did!

Explore a Parable box

Place items from the story in the parable box, such as people figures, a scroll, coins, and a heart cutout. Invite toddlers to handle items.

Say: **Jesus told stories about God.** God forgives us through His Son, Jesus.

Weigh coins

Provide a kitchen scale and sealed bags of coins. Some bags should have more coins and some should have less. Invite toddlers to weigh the bags. Talk about the Bible story.

Say: **Jesus told stories about God.** Jesus told a story about a tax collector and a religious leader. The tax collector asked God to forgive him, and God did!