

## TEACHER GUIDE

### TELL Bible Pathway

#### Part 1

#### Lesson 2



Concept #2: Grace | [tellnetwork.org](http://tellnetwork.org)

 **Watch video 2.** *Play the second video. Make sure all participants can see the screen and hear the audio. If you don't have a large enough screen or have trouble displaying the video, ask students to watch the video on their own before class. The Bible story is Luke 18:9-14.*

**Think: A powerful introduction that gets you thinking about an interesting topic, or question**

In lesson 1, we talked about a Pharisee. In this story, we see a Pharisee again and we also meet a tax collector. Why do you think tax collectors were NOT very popular people in Jesus' day?

*Let students reflect on this. Tax collectors were not very popular for three reasons. First, they collected taxes. No one likes to pay taxes. Second, the Jews were especially displeased in Jesus' day because they were ruled by foreigners (the Romans). Jews who collected taxes for a foreign government were seen as traitors. Finally, the tax collectors were not honest. They used to charge more than people owed to enrich themselves.*

*Helping students understand how people back then regarded tax collectors as the worst sinners will help highlight the key concept of grace. The fact that the tax collector went home justified was totally undeserved. That's the grace!*

**Evaluate: brings more meaning and context to the lesson**

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, some who trusted in their own righteousness and belittled others, the Pharisee of the parable of Jesus, and the tax collector of the parable of Jesus*
2. What are the objects in the story? *The foods that the Pharisee did not eat and the tithes he gave*
3. Where did the story take place? *Where Jesus was when He recounted the parable is not mentioned. The parable he told took place in the temple. The teacher could add that the tax collector was praying far away from the pharisee, who was the center of attention.*
4. When did the story take place? *Probably near the end of Jesus' public ministry on earth*

5. What is the problem in the story? *The problem is sin. The Pharisee's problem was that he did not recognize his sin. The tax collector had the same problem of sin, but he recognized his sin and knew where to turn for mercy.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Jesus told the parable to those who considered themselves righteous. The parable is the story of two individuals. The Pharisees, of course, were considered righteous and better than others by many in society. The tax collector was the opposite. He would have been called a sinner. They both went to the temple. The Pharisee's prayer is a report of his own righteousness before God, although in reality he was a sinner. The tax collector simply asked God for mercy. Jesus says that the tax collector was justified, not the Pharisee.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes! Jesus says the tax collector "went home justified." We can see in Ephesians 2:8-9 that he was saved by grace through faith. The Pharisee's problem was not solved. He did not return home justified. His dependence on his own works meant that he had separated himself from God's grace. See Galatians 5:4 for a similar passage.*

### Learn

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *As the story in the previous lesson gave us a definition of sin, this story tells us what grace is. The early listeners of this story had a strong belief that the tax collector did not deserve God's mercy or forgiveness. They were right. What they were wrong about was thinking that the Pharisee did deserve grace. That's what grace is all about! God's love is not deserved. Because of Jesus, He forgives those who do not deserve it.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
  - a. *Being like the Pharisee, a hypocrite who believed himself to be just according to his own works, standing in front of the crowd praising ourselves rather than God.*
  - b. *Being openly sinful as the tax collector was. We should confess just as he did, from afar and in anguish.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson?
  - a. *Although the tax collector was a public sinner, someone everyone knew did not deserve God's love, he received God's grace and was justified before God. Jesus told this story as he was on his way to Jerusalem to suffer, die, and be resurrected. You see God's grace in the concrete deeds of Jesus – receiving the guilt of our sin so that we could be declared innocent.*



**Next class:** day and time

**Additional information for the teacher: Topics that may arise during class**

**Additional passages that can be used.** Obviously, there are many passages that can be used that are not mentioned in this lesson. Here are some additional passages about grace: 1 Timothy 2:4, Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9, Deuteronomy 23:5, Psalm 136:1-3, Ephesians 2:4-9, Titus 3:3-5, John 3:16, Ephesians 1:6-7, 1 John 4:9-10, Galatians 4:4-5, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:21-22, 1 John 3:5, Isaiah 53, Romans 4:25, and Romans 5:8.

