





# Two Men Pray

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Jesus taught people by His words. He wants all people to know that they are sinners. He wants all people to know that He came to save them from their sins. Sometimes Jesus used stories in His teaching. One day Jesus was teaching some people who thought they were better than others. These people did not think they were sinners. They did not think they needed Jesus as their Savior. So Jesus told them a story.

Jesus said, "Two men went to the temple to pray. One man worked in the temple-church. He was known as a Pharisee. The other man worked as a tax collector. Tax collectors were known for cheating people and taking their money.

"The Pharisee stood proudly before God and prayed. The Pharisee talked about what a good man he

was. 'God,' the Pharisee said, 'I thank You that I am so good. I am better than most people. I am certainly better than this tax collector who is also here praying. Twice a week instead of eating I pray.'

"The tax collector stood quietly by himself. Looking down, he prayed simply, 'God have mercy on me. I am a sinner.'"

Jesus told the people that God forgave the man who was humble. He was sorry for his sins and trusted God for forgiveness. The other man was proud and did not think he needed forgiveness because he did not think he was sinful. He was wrong!

Jesus came to die on the cross to earn forgiveness for all our sins. Those who are sorry for their sins and believe in Jesus as their Savior will be forgiven.

## Pray to the Lord.



*Parents:* Explain to your child that we fold our hands and bow our head in prayer to show our humbleness before God. Pray together with your child. Ask God to forgive your sins for Jesus' sake. Then thank God for giving you Jesus as your Savior and for the privilege of talking to Him often in prayer.