

Planning



Sunday, October 23 – Saturday, October 29 • 2022

Other People

In a story of two prayers, we find new ways to practice humility rather than worrying so much about what other people might be doing.

This week...

Ecumenical prayer calendar

Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

As listed in *Pilgrim Prayer: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, edited by Ester Pudjo Widiastih and Karen L. Bloomquist. (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2018). <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle> offers valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

Special days ([commentary](#) on p. 116)

October 23 – Peace Sabbath/UN Sunday

October 24 – United Nations Day

October 26 – Rosh Hashanah begins (*Judaism*)

October 27 – Baha'u'llah's Birthday (*Baha'i*)

Personal reflection

We can see with our own eyes what people are doing. We can sometimes hear it too, but our senses fail to pin down what God is doing. That is what prayer is for and why we seek new ways to seek out God in our daily practice.

- **In full humility, try a prayer practice that is unfamiliar and perhaps even uncomfortable to you, such as liturgical dance or silent meditation. Don't worry too much about getting it right but do welcome new understandings from God.**
- **Set aside time this week to carefully write down all of the names, places, joys, and sorrows on one piece of paper. Keep it in a safe place to pray through that list each day.**

The planning page is provided in text format for copying, adapting, and adding to your bulletin or online worship resources or website or social media (see Text folder, Worship Outline).

October 23, 2022

20th Sunday after Pentecost

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proper 25 (30)

Revised Common Lectionary (Year C)

Joel 2:23–32

Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

Luke 18:9–14

the focus in age-level materials



Seasons of the Spirit™

is based on semi-continuous readings of the Revised Common Lectionary.

Liturgical colour green

Notes

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Online Resources

Lection Connection

Essays and discussion prompts linking current events with this week's scriptures. Use for sermon preparation, Bible studies, and small groups or share on social media at <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/10/>.

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

An easy-to-share, weekly online resource supports the spiritual lives and faith formation of individuals and families at home. It is provided in the [Faith at Home](#) folder.





Joel 2:23–32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18
Luke 18:9–14
the focus in age-level materials



Seasons of the Spirit™ is based on the semi-continuous readings of the Revised Common Lectionary.

God, be present to us in words of affirmation and love. Be near us in the constant challenge to overcome our arrogance and pride. Help us to be led by your grace to find humility in ourselves this day. Amen.

Other People

A public shaming frenzy swept over social media in the COVID-19 pandemic. Fingers were pointed perhaps because it's harder to do the soul work to find a balanced view of oneself as a child of God in the large web of Creation than it is to point at other people. Isolation didn't help. The pandemic made this so much worse.

Joel 2:23–32 holds powerful words of assurance and renewal. The people have failed God, and they feel the shame of having done so. The biblical image of shame is often one that produces hunger, drought, and separation from the sources of life. Shame cuts the people off from God, but the promise of God is of hope and presence. God's presence connects us with God. Hopes will be fulfilled, pain alleviated, and freedoms achieved.

Psalm 65 offers a communal prayer of praise and thanksgiving full of rejoicing in God's listening and forgiveness. That rejoicing extends to an awareness of God's presence in the mighty acts of Creation and sources of life, such as water and grain. For the psalmist, God's presence is grounded in our sustenance and our satisfaction spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Like the psalm, **2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18** recognizes that it is God who gives strength and a constant presence, rescuing time and again. It speaks of Paul's life poured into a vocation as an apostle not from a place of comfort but from the isolation of an actual prison cell.

Remembering who we were and how we behaved in the pandemic might help as we listen to **Luke 18:9–14**. Verse nine reveals that this parable is a teaching moment for people who thought themselves "righteous and regarded others with

contempt." Is that me? Was that me? What would God say? It is a good question to ask of these two temple goers.

The Pharisee, known to be a strict follower of God's rules, believes himself to be beyond reproach. Like all Pharisees, he would have been especially concerned with prayer, but those prayers would have praised God. Here, he praises himself for fasting and tithing.

The other, a tax collector, seems to consider himself worthy of all blame and humiliation that comes his way. The Pharisee would have regarded him this way. The tax collector is not the centre of attention, and he doesn't want to be. He prays for mercy by beating his chest. It is this one that Jesus says goes home "justified," just as the widow did in the previous parable. The tax collector is the one who shows humility rather than the Pharisee.

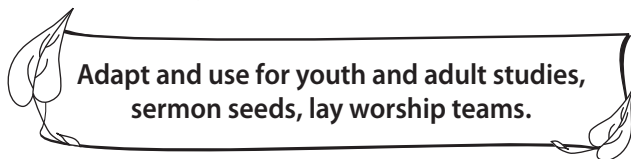
The irony of this text, and the point Jesus makes, is that judgment is God's realm, and we – no matter our status – are called to humility and repentance. The Pharisee has much to repent of but cannot see it. The tax collector has much to repent of and does. God, listening in to all the prayers, sees clearly where forgiveness and compassion belong. We are called to learn as we listen in with God through the teaching of Jesus.

• • • • •

Like the Pharisee, we can compare ourselves to other people. But such comparison keeps us from recognizing God in our midst. God is the one who sustains. God is the one who provides, and God's sustenance and provision are not based on our undertakings. God has promised to be present with God's beloved children in all circumstances. In a world that likes to boast of its achievements, we would do well to remember this. How do you experience God's presence?



Reflecting on the Word



Connecting with life

Think back over the following week and consider:

- When did you compare yourself to someone else?
- When did you feel that someone else was judging you?

Scripture

Joel 2:23–32 The prophet speaks of the day when God's spirit will be poured out, and everyone will have dreams, visions, and prophecies to share. As such, the whole community will be guided by God's hope.

- What is the hope you have for the community in which you live?
- Joel's vision is that all people have a voice. Whose voice could bring guidance to your community?

Psalms 65 speaks of being in God's dwelling place and receiving God's mercy or God's strength.

- Where do you seek God's strength? Where do you find it?
- Is God's strength the same as God's mercy, or does it differ?

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18 The writer sums up his career, confident that he has been faithful and that God's strength has allowed this to be so.

- How has God's faithfulness been present in your life? How has this inspired your faithfulness?
- What satisfaction do you find from God at this point in your life?

- How would you sum up the journey of your faith to this point?

Luke 18:9–14 In this passage, the tax collector grows closer to God through self-examination. It is often the case that our inward journey guides our outward journey of faith. Thus, this passage allows us the opportunity to reflect upon our own lives.

- Consider the list of those held in contempt: What negative comparisons do we make in our personal lives and church communities or larger society?
- If no distance is too great for God to bridge, what parts of your life or community do you want to bring together?
- How can you avoid comparison with others and allow God's love to make the foundation of who you are?
- In an age of self-promotion in social networks and a need for churches to stay relevant through online media, how do we (and can we) guard against the trappings of appearances and spend more time on authentic relationships?

Connecting scripture and life

Advertisements on our computers, phones, televisions, and newspapers tell us how and where we can find satisfaction. The readings this week remind us that true satisfaction comes from God's loving presence among us and that we come to recognize this presence most fully when we live in humility.

- Whose humility has inspired you?
- How do you, individually and as a church, show humility in a world that so often seems to reward arrogance?
- Where and in what ways are you in danger of pride and boasting, individually and as a church?
- Why is humility vital for us as individuals, our communities, and our world?

Focus for Worship, Learning, and Serving

When we find ourselves, like the Pharisee, boasting and resting assured in our accomplishments, perhaps we are challenged to remember that it is God's accomplishments that enliven and sustain all Creation. God's loving presence reaches all people and all places. This can be hard to realize fully or even accept. Consider the ways your community and its surrounding environment is bound by beliefs and actions that are not loving. Consider the internal messages that might keep individuals from embracing the words "God loves me."

We want to take credit for our achievements and have those light our way forward. The way forward is love, and

love is born of humility and understanding. Love flows from divine mercy. This week, pay special attention to how the worship experience nurtures and supports the individuals needing to hear affirmations of God's love. Notice, too, where there are spaces to challenge the arrogance, pride, and greed that those very same people may feel. How does God's presence bind the worshipping community together? How does God's presence inform the actions you take as a community of faith? How does God's presence invite you into satisfaction with the Divine, as individuals and as a gathered community?



Other People

Prepare

NOTE: The following suggestions are mere starting points; adapt, delete, and add according to your local needs and context. If a community is gathered in person, they may speak the **bolded** lines. If worshippers are not all physically present, consider having a different individual say the bolded responses. Instructions are *italicized*.

- ❑ Recruit volunteers needed for worship.
- ❑ Choose an option for hearing Luke 18:9–14. For the Bible story, arrange for a storyteller to present “Jesus Reminds Us to Be Respectful” on p. 118 or “The Pharisee and the Tax Collector” in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week’s materials. Arrange for someone to present the reflection.
- ❑ Bring items for setting the worship space.
- ❑ You might choose to print *Just as We Are One* on or in your bulletin (in the Images to Project and Print folder). For background to the art and artist, see “Connecting with the Art” on p. 8.
- ❑ Bring song such as “I Am a Child of God” (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 8, #13 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 8. Printed music and recording also available at *Seasons MP3 Downloads*, www.seasonsonline.ca).
- ❑ Set stations as described on p. 119–120.



Music Suggestions

One Body in Christ

Amanda McKenna; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 8

Trust Greatly

Gabrielle Lord; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 8

Forever I Will Sing

Michael Mangan; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 5

Put On Love

Mary Lu Walker; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 5

Servant Song

Bobby Fisher and Ziggy Stardust; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 5

Song of Mercy

Donald Schmidt; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 2

This Joy

Traditional; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 2

Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You

Shirley Erena Murray



A chart that shows the licence holder(s) for each song in each of the 9 *Seasons of the Spirit* Music Volumes can be found at www.seasonsonline.ca. Click on Library; Seasons Music Information. Please contact a licence holder for permission to duplicate.

Gather

Call to worship

We did not first seek God.

God first came looking for us.

We do not find God.

It is God who finds us.

Come, let us free ourselves
of expectation and responsibility.

**Let us find God here
in our worship today.**

Come, let us worship.

Opening prayer

Loving God,
we come into your presence with singing
we come, each one and all,
with unique strengths and weaknesses;
together, your children.

Thank you for the creation, in your love,
of a space where we are accepted as we are,

where we can breathe, be honest, learn, and grow.
Thank you for meeting with us here.
Thank you for brothers and sisters in the faith.
You teach and empower us to live together,
to serve the gospel and change the world
in life that does not die, and love that does not end.
Loving God, thank you. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Forgiving God,
every minute of every day
the world asks us to compare ourselves with other people.
We confess that we give in to this temptation,
sometimes feeling worse
but most often feeling better than others.

We ask you to forgive us.
May we dwell in your presence
where each person and all people
reflect your love to one another
and are satisfied. Amen.



Words of affirmation

Based on Psalm 65

God's promise to every generation is to know that God is there for us, and we shall never be put to shame.

Receive God's grace and offer it to one another. Amen.

Engage

Opening the word

Luke 18:9–14 *the focus scripture for age-level materials in ENCORE*

Choose from the following.

Bible story Have a storyteller present the story “Jesus Reminds Us to Be Respectful” on p. 118. Alternatively, for younger children, tell the story “The Pharisee and the Tax Collector” (in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week's materials).

Reflection The parable of Jesus sets up a comparison. A Pharisee serves God, fasts, and gives alms. He assumes these things make him superior to outright sinners and to the tax collector, who is also present in the temple. The Pharisee goes so far as to tell God he thinks he is superior.

Meanwhile, a tax collector stands at a distance, feeling unworthy of God, not even daring to raise his eyes to God. Instead, he beats his breast and begs for mercy. Jesus tells us that the tax collector is the one who goes away justified. The parable ends with Jesus saying, “Everyone who exalts themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The good that we do – serving God, loving our neighbours, praying for our enemies, giving money and time to the church and in service to the gospel, fasting – we do because we love God. End of story. We do not do it to compete with other Christians or non-Christians. We do it because love is its own reward.

Service to God can indeed be daunting, even exhausting. Sometimes people will indeed ridicule us for our stated beliefs. It is true that, like the tax collector, we will do things we feel we have to do, even though it makes us feel bad to do it, and we know it is wrong. We live in a dualistic world.

A fish cannot live without water, but a fish has no consciousness of water. We cannot live without God, but we are blessed with a choice to be conscious of the God in which we live – to swim in God consciously, whether walking in nature, listening to music, reading psalms or poetry, creating art, writing in a journal. Any activity that makes us know God's presence enables us to have eye contact with the God who loves us deeply and helps us remember the love that does not end and the life that does not die. The reality of this is indeed its own reward.

If gathering in person, invite children, young people, and all who wish to move to the stations. Others will remain seated for proclaiming the word. For those participating at home, you might encourage them to use materials that have been sent.

Respond

Sing or listen to a song such as “I Am a Child of God” as people gather again (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 8, #13 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 8. Printed music and recording are also available at *Seasons MP3 Downloads*, www.seasonsonline.ca).

Prayers of the people

Invite the congregation (as each person is comfortable) to close their eyes. Invite them to focus on their breath, breathing in slowly, breathing out slowly, aware only of their breath. (*Pause.*) Invite them to envision warm light surrounding

them. (*Pause.*) Imagine that you are being held and gently rocked to and fro in that light. (*Pause.*)

That light is God's love, and you are so held.
Feel that love holding you as we pray together:

Loving God,
sometimes we forget your presence.
Sometimes we think everything depends upon us,
and we know our inadequacy.



Thank you for being present and for loving us.
Thank you for being present everywhere
and loving all people.

Help us to see with new eyes
and love with new hearts
and serve you with joy and light.
We pray for a hurting world,
that people can experience, in difficulty and pain,
your arms around them,
your eyes seeing them,
your everlasting presence, their home.

Help us to share this good news
and to do it in ways that the messenger of love
is congruent with the message of love. Amen.

Prayer of dedication or offering prayer

Loving God, you have blessed us beyond measure.
Help us to remember people in need and be willing to share.
When we are the ones in need, help us be willing to receive.
We recognize that giving and receiving are two aspects of
one thing: love.
May we be love and be loved. Amen.

Bless

Based on 2 Timothy 4:6–8
Go and fight the good fight,
trusting that you can finish the race
because God is with you.

Go with this blessing:
God will always be with you.
Hold on to this faith
day after day after day.

Special Days Commentary

October 23 – Peace Sabbath/UN Sunday

In the context of the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (October 24, 1945), many churches observe a Peace Sabbath on the Sunday prior (some call it UN Sunday, or World Order Sunday).

October 26 – Rosh Hashanah begins (Judaism)

Rosh Hashanah is the celebration of the Jewish New Year that occurs every year in September or October. Before you get ideas in your head about Jewish people breaking out the champagne and noisemakers and staying up until midnight on some school night in September or October, it's not exactly that way!

Rosh (which is the Hebrew word for “head”) Hashanah (which is the Hebrew word for “year”) is the beginning of a holy period of ten days called the Days of Awe. These ten

days is a time for Jews to go for a spiritual checkup. Instead of a checkup for the body, it is a checkup for the soul. And instead of going to someone else for the checkup, Jews are expected to examine themselves. What do we examine? We examine our choices, how we have treated other people, and how we have acted to make the world a better place. We all have some things we have done well, but we all need to improve upon things. For those things, we ask for forgiveness and work toward being better and making the world a better place. – *Rabbi Adam Morris*

October 27 – Baha'u'llah's Birthday (Baha'i)

The birthday of the founder of the Baha'i faith is often observed with prayers, feasts, and community activities. Baha'u'llah was born in Nur, Persia, in 1817.



Personal Practices: Prayer, Fasting, Giving

Directions

1. Read Luke 18:9–14 and note the three spiritual practices mentioned – prayer, fasting, and giving.
2. Using the chart below, or creating your own, create unique and specific spiritual practices for each day of one week for the three categories: prayer, fasting, giving. Think about things that separate you from God and how these specific practices might be a way for you to draw close to God and rely on God's presence and guidance. See the examples below for some inspiration. Don't be afraid to take a little creative licence with these categories. Think about who/what you pray for and how you pray. There might

be ways to guide or focus your prayers that means more to you, others, and God. Fasting is traditionally fasting from a specific food or a meal – you can fast from negative and damaging behaviour as well. Giving is traditionally thought of in terms of monetary gifts or sacrifice – you can also give time and encouraging words, to name a few alternatives.

3. Repeat these practices weekly (or write new ones for each week). You might also modify or create a new list to meet specific spiritual needs or goals you have for yourself. You might share your practices with someone who can help you stay accountable to your practices.

	Prayer	Fasting	Giving
Monday	Pray for patience when you are critical of yourself today.	Fast from negative thoughts – about yourself and others today.	Give a homemade gift to someone who needs your encouragement.
Tuesday	Pray for those who don't have a choice about going without a meal today.	Fast from one meal today.	Give the money you would have spent on one meal to someone or an organization that helps the hungry.
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			



Jesus Invites Us to Be Respectful

Based on Luke 18:9–14

Jesus and his friends were ready to sit down and have lunch in the shade of an olive tree, but the ground was very dusty, so Mark pointed toward a large log a little way down the hill. “I could carry that up the hill, and we could sit on it!” he said, clearly pleased with this great idea.

“It looks awfully heavy,” Peter warned. “Not for me!” Mark exclaimed. “When I was younger, I used to carry all sorts of heavy things for my father; I was the strongest of all my brothers, even though I was one of the younger ones!”

Mark continued to talk about the time he had dragged a broken plough home, and the time he helped put a millstone in place for a neighbour, and the competition he won throwing heavy stones before he had even turned eight. The friends listened politely but were shifting on their tired feet, and Timothy’s stomach gave a large growl.

But Mark talked on. Just as Mark was going around the group, flexing his arm muscle, saying, “Go ahead, feel it!”

There was a loud thud behind him. Panting and sweaty, John stood over the large log with a grin on his face. “Let’s eat!” he said. Mark’s cheeks turned pink as he put his arm down.

They all sat on the log and gave thanks for their lunch.

As they ate, they all had a good laugh about the log, Mark included. “It does remind me of a story,” Jesus said. The laughter died down, and the friends grew quiet. They liked Jesus’ stories.

Jesus began:

Once two men went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who studied the Torah and taught its laws to others and was highly regarded in his community. The other was a tax collector, who sometimes cheated people out of their money or did cruel things in the emperor’s name.

As the Pharisee prayed, he said, “God, I thank you that I am not like all the bad people – the thieves, the murderers, the cheaters, or even that tax collector over there! I know all the laws, and I follow them, I give a tenth of my income to the temple, I fast, and I pray!” But when the tax collector prayed he bowed his head in shame and cried, saying, “God, I am sorry; I have not lived your way of love and fairness. Help me to be kind, loving, and fair.”

Jesus looked around at his friends and finished, “God listened to the prayers of the tax collector, even though others thought he should not be in the temple; God listens to the prayers of everyone. No one is better than another.”

A recording of this story is available in MP3 format in the Audio Stories folder.



Bible story

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Paper or drawing pads
- Recording of today’s story “[Jesus Reminds Us to Be Respectful](#)”
- Alternatively, arrange for a storyteller to present the story

The practice of storytelling

Directions

1. Listen to the story “Jesus Reminds Us to Be Respectful.”
2. Who are the people with whom you find it difficult to be friends or people with whom you disagree? Draw a picture of what it might look like if we treated all people with respect and kindness.



Living, Learning, Growing as Disciples

The following stations might be set up around your worship space, or in other places around the church, in your home, or outdoors. Choose one or more practices, depending on your space and numbers. Display the directions for all to see onscreen or in person. Adapt stations for use when physically distancing and above all, follow the safe practices of your congregation and local health officials.

For your convenience, directions are formatted for printing and available in the Stations folder.

Health and Safety Practices



Basic supplies pens, pencils, markers, crayons, white glue/glue sticks, scissors, hand sanitizer, wipes placed in a basket or bin, two containers marked “clean” and “used”



Setting the space Utilize large spaces where people can maintain a safe physical distance. Spread out chairs around a large table or use tape to mark off the space around stand alone chairs.



Keep it clean Wipe down and disinfect places used for stations. Provide enough arts and crafts supplies to reduce sharing and mark containers “clean” and “used.” Remind people to use hand sanitizer as they begin and as they end stations.

Aesop's Tortoise and Hare fable

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Bible(s), or a copy of Luke 18:9–14
- Copy or copies of Aesop's fable, *The Tortoise and the Hare*
- Writing paper and pens
- Personal journals (optional)



The practice of humility

Directions

1. Read or have someone read the Aesop fable.
2. Reflect on and perhaps discuss:
 - **What are the messages told in this story?**
3. Read Luke 18:9–14.
4. Reflect on and perhaps discuss:
 - **What are the messages in this story?**
 - **How are these parables alike and different?**
 - **What is the difference between humility and conceit?**
5. Use the writing paper or your personal journals as you reflect on humility and conceit. You might draw, write a poem, or use a “doodle journal.”

Prayer pots

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Modelling clay or potter's clay
- Strips of paper
- Bowl of water and hand towels to clean clay from hands



The practice of prayer

Directions

1. The tax collector was humble in his approach to God. The word “humble” comes from the same source as the word for “humus” or “earth.”
2. Use the clay to make pot shapes to hold written prayers.
3. Write one-sentence prayers identifying concerns and things for which you are grateful.

Younger children Write or draw things for which you are thankful.



Healthy self-esteem

Materials

- Bibles or copies of Luke 18:9–14
- Paper for writing (optional)
- Personal journals (optional)



**Suitable for
all ages**

The practice of hospitality

Directions

1. Read Luke 18:9–14 silently. Think about the Pharisee's prayer and his comparison to other people – thieves, rogues, adulterers, tax collectors.
2. Next, spend some time thinking about, writing, or drawing your thoughts about the following questions:
 - **Who are the people you hold in disapproval or disrespect?**
 - **What are examples of loving or understanding responses you might have to these people instead of judging them?**
 - **Take a moment to identify instances, circumstances, or even other people that trigger your feelings of contempt/disrespect. How might you change your habits or routines to avoid these feelings?**
 - **What are some other examples of practicing healthy self-esteem that might help you avoid putting other people down? (for example, write a positive message to yourself each morning and read it throughout the day if you're feeling disappointed in yourself, be more forgiving of yourself if you make a mistake)**
3. Write a short prayer that asks God to help you practice healthy self-esteem and encourage healthy self-esteem in others in your congregation.

The article "[Connecting with the Art](#)" on page 8 provides background to this season's posters and art engagement ideas for individuals and groups. You might add an Art station and select one of the art engagement ideas.



Story and activities for the very young to use in church or at home.

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

A story based on Luke 18:9-14

One day, Jesus told this story...

It was a busy day at the temple. Men, women, and children from all over Jerusalem were there. The temple was like a church in Jesus' time. It was a place to meet with friends, learn about God, and especially it was a place to pray. And when someone prays, God listens.

God listens to everyone.

Two people went to the temple to pray that day. One person was a Pharisee, a religious leader in the temple. The other was a tax collector who gathered money from the people of Jerusalem and gave it to the people in charge.

The religious leader stood up tall and straight and began to pray about himself. "Thank you, God, that I am

special. I give food to the hungry. I give money to the temple. I visit the sick. I obey all the rules. And I pray a lot!" God listened to the leader's prayer.

God listens to everyone.

The tax collector stood a little way off and quietly bowed his head. He wouldn't even look up. "Please, God, be kind to me. Help me to live your way. I need your love." God listened to the tax collector's prayer.

God listens to everyone.

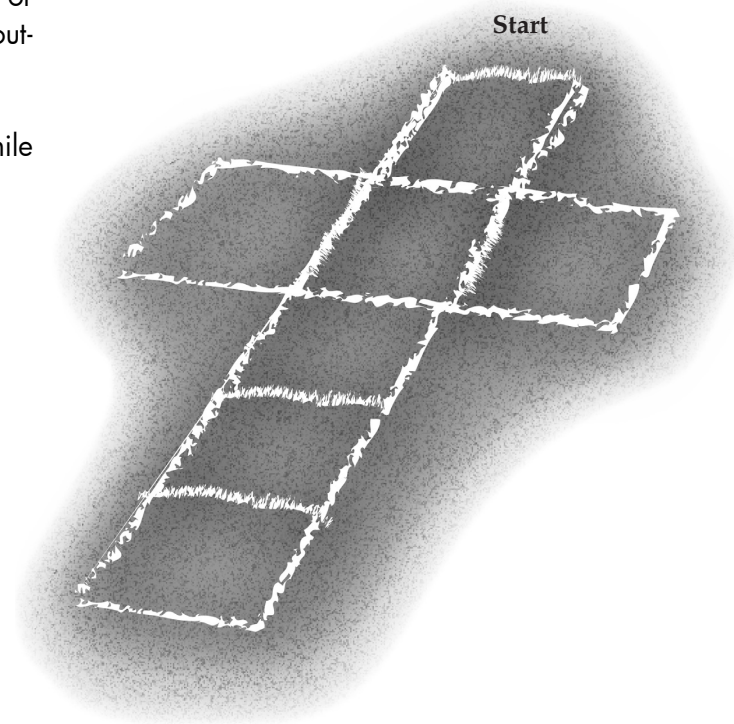
Jesus was sorry that the Pharisee didn't know how much God loves and cares for everyone. Jesus was glad that the tax collector knew he could ask God for help to live in God's ways.

Hopscotch prayer

Use tape to mark a hopscotch pattern on the floor, or draw your hopscotch pattern with pavement chalk outside, as in the illustration.

Jump with both feet together or hop on one leg while you say this prayer:

God	<i>first square with left foot</i>
Listens	<i>two outside squares – one foot in each outside square</i>
to	<i>third square with right foot</i>
Every	<i>fourth square with left foot</i>
Prayer	<i>fifth square with both feet together</i>



God loves and cares for everyone. God listens to everyone, even if we feel lonely or afraid, have done something wrong, or are not respectful. In the frame, draw

the people that you especially hope God is listening to right now. You might even draw a picture of yourself.

