

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

Luke 18:9-14

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

God exalts the humble and humbles the exalted.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

The fact that the tax collector beat his chest shows just how deep his remorse was. His was a prayer for God's judgment to pass over him. It was a prayer for atonement, for the mercy of God delivered through God's atoning sacrifice. The Pharisee focused his attention on all of the things he had done for God. The tax collector knew his only hope was what God could do for him.

- ▶ **Notice the contrast between the Pharisee and the tax collector. Take a few moments to read both descriptions and note the differences.**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

Our own righteousness, even if produced by God's grace, is not a sufficient foundation for vindication in God's holy presence. —John Piper

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

1. What are some ways our family can become more aware of our own need for grace and mercy?
2. As a family, how are we sometimes tempted to judge other people more harshly than we judge ourselves?
3. Go around the room, allowing each family member to answer this question: How does this story challenge you personally?
4. How can our family hold each other accountable in avoiding the trap of looking down on others?