

NT 20 The Pharisees

Links: [Lesson](#) | [Resources](#)

Reference: Matthew 9:9-13, 12:9-14, Mark 7:1-8, Luke 18:9-14

Big Idea: We can't be good enough to save ourselves.

Verse: Romans 6:23, ESV - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Plain text	Things to say. Questions are normally followed by the answer in parentheses.
<i>Italicized text</i>	Quotes from the NIV Bible to read.
► Yellow text	Something you need to do. "ACTION" describes something to do and have the kids repeat.
► Grey text	Something you need to draw on a chalk/marker board.
***	Dialogue for a story character actor (child) to repeat after you, one line at a time.

A. Lesson - Length: 25-30 min.

Resources: *Story Drawing, Signs (two copies of each) Do Not Murder Sign (1)*

Materials: J Shirt*, \$ Shirt*, Chairs (5), Tables (2), Bible Robe, Food Items (5)**, Large Glass Bowl of Water, Cup, Towel, Green Marker, Red Marker, Bags of Coins (3), Stuffed Sheep

* See "Setup" below ** Plastic food/real food, etc, anything for the kids to pretend to eat.

Setup and Notes:

- Create the J Shirt:
 - Turn a color shirt (not green) inside out, to hide any writing. Create a large letter J using electrical tape on the shirt.
- Create the \$ Shirt:
 - Turn a green shirt inside out, to hide any writing. Create a large \$ using electrical tape on the shirt.
- Set tables on the left and right sides of the teaching area. Behind the left table, facing the children, set one chair. Set four chairs behind the right table.
 - On the table with one chair, set the Bowl of Water, Cup, Towel, and one Food Item.
 - On the table with four chairs, set four Food Items.
- Use the Story Drawing resource to guide you as you draw during the lesson.

Introduce the lesson:

- Each week, we normally read one story from the Bible. Today, we're going to read bits from all over the second half of the Bible, the New Testament.
- The New Testament starts with four books about the life of Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
 - ► **ACTION: Say "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John"..**
- Who is Jesus? (God's Son: 100% God and 100% human.)
 - ► **Select a "Jesus" to wear the J SHIRT and sit at the RIGHT TABLE.**

Introduce the Pharisees:

- We're going to learn about a group of people called the Pharisees.
 - ► Write PHARISEES in the center of the board in large letters and CIRCLE it.
 - ► **Select a "Pharisee" to sit on the CHAIR on the left side of the room and wear the BIBLE ROBE.**
- In Jesus' day, the Pharisees were people who studied God's Word, the Bible.
 - ► **Set the LARGE BIBLE on the Pharisee's TABLE.**
- They really wanted to obey God's Law.

- ▶ **Hang one GOD’S LAW SIGN from the front, far-left side of the Pharisee’s TABLE using tape.**
- What is God’s Law? (The rules he wanted his people to follow.)
- Can you remember any of the rules from God’s Law? (Don’t lie, don’t steal, don’t kill, obey your parents.)
- We show God we love him when we obey his law. The Pharisees had the right idea: God wants us to obey his law. And they tried really hard to follow the rules that God had given them.
- Jesus, of course, didn’t just *try* to obey God’s law; he obeyed God’s law perfectly!
 - ▶ **Hang the other GOD’S LAW SIGN from the front, far-left side of Jesus’ TABLE.**
- But the Pharisees also had a couple of big problems. They made extra rules for people to follow.
 - ▶ **Write EXTRA RULES above Pharisees on the board.**
 - ▶ **Draw a CHECKLIST near it.**
- They also trusted that they could save themselves by following their rules.
 - ▶ **Write SAVE THEMSELVES below Pharisees.**
 - ▶ **Draw a STICK PERSON near it.**
- You’ll see in a moment how these are really big problems. We’ll read some different times when Jesus and the Pharisees met each other. Let’s start with a time from the book of Mark.

Begin the story:

- ² *[The Pharisees] saw some of Jesus’ disciples eating food with “unclean” hands. That means they were not washed.*
 - ▶ **Have Jesus show the kids his hands, then pretend to eat the FOOD ITEM.**
- ³ *The Pharisees... do not eat unless they wash their hands to make them pure.*
 - ▶ **Direct the Pharisee to dip his hands in the WATER BOWL, then dry them on the TOWEL.**
- ⁴ *...they do not eat unless they wash.... they wash cups, pitchers, and kettles in a special way.*
 - ▶ **Direct the Pharisee to dip the CUP in the WATER BOWL, then dry it off with the TOWEL.**
 - ▶ **Have the Pharisee “eat” the FOOD ITEM and “drink” from the CUP.**
- *** ⁵ *...the Pharisees... questioned Jesus.*
 - *Why do [your disciples]*
 - *eat their food...*
 - *...with ‘unclean’ hands?*
- *** ⁶ *[Jesus] replied...*
 - ⁸ *You have let go*
 - *of God’s commands.*
 - *...you are holding on...*
 - *to the teachings...*
 - *that men have made up. - Mark 7:1-8*

Discuss handwashing:

- One extra rule the Pharisees made was special handwashing.
 - ▶ **Attach the HANDWASHING SIGN to the front of the Pharisee’s TABLE, next to the previous.**
 - ▶ **Do the same on Jesus’ TABLE.**
- This rule wasn’t in the Bible. It was something the leaders of the Pharisees did to be clean before God. Did Jesus follow this extra rule? (No.)
 - ▶ **Draw a big RED X over Jesus’ HANDWASHING SIGN using the RED MARKER.**
 - Optional: whenever you are instructed to make marks with the marker on a sign, select a child to quickly do it.
- Did the Pharisees follow their hand washing rule? (Yes.)
 - ▶ **Draw a big GREEN CHECKMARK over the Pharisee’s HANDWASHING SIGN using the GREEN MARKER.**

- Is it okay to wash your hands before you eat? (Sure.)
- But does God say, “You MUST wash your hands before you eat or you are sinning? (No.)
- Special handwashing was an EXTRA RULE that the Pharisees followed. They followed these rules because they trusted that they could SAVE THEMSELVES by being good.

Continue the story:

- Let’s read about another time when Jesus and the Pharisees met, from the book of Matthew. Jesus was eating a meal with some tax collectors. Tax collectors were some bad guys who stole extra money from people.
- ⁹ *[Jesus] saw a man named Matthew. He was sitting at the tax collector’s booth.*
- *** *Jesus told him...*
 - *Follow me.*
- *Matthew got up and followed him.*
 - **► Select a “Matthew” wear the GREEN \$ SHIRT, hold a COIN BAG, and sit by Jesus.**
- ¹⁰ *Later Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house. Many tax collectors and “sinners” came.*
 - **► Select two more “Sinners” to sit with Jesus and Matthew. Give them COIN BAGS.**
- *They ate with Jesus and his disciples.*
 - **► Have them all “eat” together.**
- ¹¹ *** *So [the Pharisees] asked the disciples...*
 - *Why does your teacher eat*
 - *with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?*
- ¹² *** *So [Jesus] said...*
 - ¹³ *I have not come to get those*
 - *who think they are right with God*
 - *to follow me.*
 - *I have come*
 - *to get sinners to follow me. - Matt. 9:9-13*

Discuss eating with sinners:

- The Bible tells us the Pharisees had another extra rule: don’t eat with sinners. In fact, they really didn’t even want to spend any of their time with sinners.
 - **► Attach the DON’T EAT WITH SINNERS SIGNS to the front of the Pharisee’s and Jesus’ TABLE.**
- Do you think the Pharisees obeyed this extra rule? (Yes.)
 - **► Draw a GREEN CHECKMARK over the Pharisee’s SIGN.**
- Did Jesus obey this extra rule? (No.)
 - **► Draw a RED X over Jesus’ SIGN.**
- Jesus said he didn’t just eat with sinners; he came to save them! Let’s repeat what Jesus said.
 - **► Have the kids repeat:**
 - ¹³ *I have come*
 - *to get sinners*
 - *to follow me. - Matt. 9:13*
- The Pharisees thought they were so good because they obeyed EXTRA RULES. They thought they could SAVE THEMSELVES. They thought they didn’t need Jesus. But Jesus came to rescue sinners who knew they were bad and needed to be saved, like Matthew and the other tax collectors that ate with him.
 - **► Have Matthew and the Sinners shake their COIN BAGS, then rejoin the rest of the kids.**

Discuss the Sabbath:

- Before we talk about extra rule #3, let’s talk about one of God’s real rules: the Sabbath. It’s from the Ten

Commandments. The word “sabbath” means “rest.”

- **► ACTION: Rest your hands on your head like a pillow.**
- Let’s say God’s Sabbath command together.
 - **► Have the kids repeat:**
 - ⁸ *Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy.*
 - ⁹ *Do all of your work in six days.*
 - ¹⁰ *But the seventh day is a Sabbath*
 - *in honor of the Lord your God.*
 - *Do not do any work on that day. - Ex. 20:8-10*
- What does God want his people to do on the Sabbath? (Rest and do no work.)
 - **► Attach a SABBATH SIGN to the front of Jesus and the Pharisee’s TABLES.**
- The Pharisees had EXTRA RULES about what you couldn’t do on the Sabbath. If you tripped and fell and broke your leg on the Sabbath...
 - **► Pretend to trip and fall down.**
- ...they didn’t think it would be okay to help and heal someone on the Sabbath Day.
 - **► Lay on the floor, flail your arms, say, “Somebody, help me!”, then stand back up.**
- One of their extra rules was, “You can’t help or heal someone on the Sabbath.”
 - **► Tape the DON’T HEAL on the SABBATH SIGNS next to the previous SIGNS on both TABLES.**
- Let’s read from the Bible and see what Jesus did on the Sabbath.

Continue the story:

- ⁹ *Jesus went into their synagogue.* ¹⁰ *A man with a weak and twisted hand was there.*
 - **► Select a “Man with a Weak Hand” to stand up front.**
 - **► Direct them to curl their hand into their chest to make it look weak and twisted.**
- *The Pharisees were trying to find fault with Jesus.*
- *** *So [the Pharisees] asked him...*
 - *Does the Law allow us...*
 - *...to heal on the Sabbath day?*
- *** ¹¹ *[Jesus] said to them...*
 - *What if one of your sheep*
 - *...falls into a pit on the Sabbath?*
 - **► Throw the STUFFED SHEEP on the floor a few feet from Jesus.**
 - *Won’t you take hold of it*
 - *...and lift it out?*
 - **► Direct Jesus to go over to the SHEEP and pick it up into his arms.**
 - ¹² *A man is worth more than sheep!*
 - *So the Law allows us to do good...*
 - *...on the Sabbath day.*
- *** ¹³ *Then Jesus said to the man...*
 - *Stretch out your hand.*
- *So he stretched it out. It was as good as new, just as good as the other hand.*
 - **► Have the Man With the Weak hand stretch it out and demonstrate that it’s good as new.**
- ¹⁴ *But the Pharisees went out and planned how to kill Jesus. - Matt. 12:9-14*
 - **► Have the Pharisee punch his palm and whisper:**
 - How can we kill Jesus?

Discuss Jesus healing on the Sabbath:

- Instead of talking about an EXTRA RULE, this time, we were talking about one of God’s real rules: don’t do your

work on the Sabbath. Did the Pharisees obey God's real rule about not working on the Sabbath? (Yes.)

- **► Draw a GREEN CHECKMARK on the Pharisee's SABBATH SIGN.**
- Did Jesus obey God's real rule about not working on the Sabbath? (Yes.)
 - **► Draw a GREEN CHECKMARK on the Jesus' SABBATH SIGN.**
- Did the Pharisees obey their extra rule about not healing on the Sabbath? (Yes.)
 - **► Draw a GREEN CHECKMARK on the Pharisee's DON'T HEAL ON THE SABBATH SIGN.**
- What amazing miracle did Jesus do on the Sabbath in the story we just read? (Healed a man's weak and twisted hand.)
 - **► Have the Man with the Weak Hand give two thumbs up, then rejoin the kids.**
- Jesus said that God lets us do good on the Sabbath. If a sheep falls into a pit on the Sabbath, it's not work to help it up. If someone falls down and is hurt on the Sabbath, it's not work to help them up And it wasn't work for Jesus to do a miracle and heal the man on the Sabbath. Jesus *did* obey God's Sabbath.
 - **► Draw a GREEN CHECKMARK on Jesus' SABBATH SIGN.**
- Did Jesus obey the Pharisees' extra rule about not healing on the Sabbath? (No.)
 - **► Draw a RED X on Jesus' DON'T HEAL ON THE SABBATH SIGN.**
- The Pharisees became very upset with him. Let's repeat what they did.
 - **► Have the kids echo each phrase:**
 - ¹⁴ ...the Pharisees went out...
 - ...and planned how to kill Jesus. - Matt. 12:14
- We have one more story to read. It's a story Jesus told to the Pharisees.

Continue the story:

- ⁹ Jesus told a story to some people who were sure they were right with God. They looked down on everybody else.
- ¹⁰ He said to them, "Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee. The other was a tax collector."
 - **► Have the Pharisee and Matthew (the kid in the Green \$ SHIRT) kneel in prayer in the center of the teaching area.**
- ¹¹ *** The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself.
 - God, I thank you
 - that I am not like other people.
 - I am not like robbers
 - or those who do other evil things.
 - I am not even like this tax collector.
- ¹³ But the tax collector stood not very far away. He would not even look up to heaven. He beat his chest...
 - **► Have the Tax Collector beat his chest, then bow low.**
- ***[The tax collector] said...
 - God, have mercy on me.
 - I am a sinner.
- ¹⁴ I tell you, the tax collector went home accepted by God.
 - **► Help the Tax Collector up.**
 - **► Have the kids repeat:**
 - God has forgiven you.
- But not the Pharisee." - Luke 18:9-14
 - **► Have the Pharisee hang their head low.**

Discuss Jesus' story:

- In Jesus' story, the Pharisee and the tax collector both prayed to God. The Pharisee thanked God for making him such a good person. Why do you think the Pharisee thought he was such a good person? (He followed the rules.)
- The tax collector's prayer was different. Let's say it together.

- **► Have the kids repeat:**
 - *God, have mercy on me.*
 - *I am a sinner. - Luke 18:13*
- The tax collector didn't tell God how great he was. He told God that he was a sinner. He asked God to have mercy on him, which means to forgive his sins and be kind to him.
- Jesus said that God accepted and forgave the sinful tax collector.
 - **► Give the Tax Collector a side-hug, then direct him to return to his seat as everyone claps.**
- But Jesus said that God did not accept or forgive the Pharisee.
 - **► Turn your back to the Pharisee and fold your arms.**
 - **► Direct the Pharisee to sit at their table.**
- Why do you think God forgave the Tax Collector, but he didn't forgive the Pharisee? (Various responses.)
- Think about the two prayers in Jesus' story. Which person asked God for forgiveness? (The Tax Collector.)
- Who prayed about how good he was and DIDN'T ask for forgiveness? (The Pharisee.)
- God forgave the tax collector who knew he was a sinner and asked for forgiveness.
- God didn't forgive the Pharisee who thought he was good and didn't ask for forgiveness.

Conclude the story:

- The Pharisees tried to follow God's law and they even make EXTRA RULES to be extra good. They thought that by being good, they could SAVE THEMSELVES. Here's the problem: the only way they could save themselves was if they were perfect and never disobeyed, even once!
- Do you think the Pharisees were perfect? (Various responses.)
- We can know that the Pharisees weren't perfect because of what the Bible says. Let's repeat it together.
 - **► Have the kids echo each phrase:**
 - ²³ *Everyone has sinned.*
 - *No one measures up*
 - *to God's glory. - Rom. 3:23*
- Everyone has sinned and that means the Pharisees, too. In fact, the Pharisees were so angry with Jesus, they tried to kill him!
- Is it a sin to murder God's Son, Jesus? (Of course!)
 - **► Attach the DON'T MURDER SIGN to the Pharisee's TABLE and draw a RED X on it.**
- The Pharisees were sinners, and no sinner can save themselves. But they didn't think they needed anyone to save them!
- Who did God send to save us from our sins? (His, Son, Jesus.)
- What did Jesus do to save us from our sins? (Died on a cross to take our punishment.)
- What happened on the third day after Jesus died? (He rose from the dead.)

Introduce the big idea:

- The Pharisees were important characters in the life of Jesus. When you read your Bibles, you'll read about them a lot. They had lots of EXTRA RULES for people to follow and they believed they could SAVE THEMSELVES by being good.
- What should you remember when you think about the Pharisees? I think you should remember this: We can't be good enough to save ourselves. That's today's big idea.
 - **► Teach the kids the motions for the big idea.**
 - **► Say the big idea and do the motions with the kids several times.**

Big Idea and Motions: We can't be good enough to save ourselves.

- We - point to yourself with both thumbs
- Can't - wag your finger "No!" and put your other hand on your hip

- Good - two thumbs up
- Save - make the baseball “Safe!” sign
- Ourselves - point to yourself with two thumbs again

B. Instruction Activity - Length: 15 min.

Resources and Materials: *Instruction Activity Sheet (1 per kid)*, Crayons

Setup/Notes:

- When the children are instructed to fill items in the blank on their Instruction Activity Sheets (IAS), you might need to write these words on the board so the kids know how to spell them.

Introduce the activity:

- ▶ **Hand each child an age-appropriate IAS and CRAYONS/PENCILS.**
- ▶ **Have them trace/fill in the big idea at the top:**
 - We can't be good enough to save ourselves.
- Today's Bible story was all about the Pharisees, people who made extra rules and thought they could be good enough to save themselves. But today's big idea lets us know that we can't be good enough to save ourselves..
- The Pharisees thought they could save themselves by being good and following the law. Our big idea tells us that isn't true. We're going to talk about a verse from the Bible that teaches two important things about this.

Discuss the Pharisees:

- First, let's talk about the Pharisees. How did the Pharisees think they could be saved? (By obeying God's laws.)
 - ▶ **Have them trace/write the following in the "What the Pharisees Thought" box:**
 - I can be saved by OBEYING God's LAWS.
 - ▶ **Have them draw a BIBLE in that Box.**
- Let's talk about some of God's laws from the Bible. As I read them, I want you to think, "Have I always obeyed these commands, 100% of the time?"
 - ▶ **Have the kids repeat the laws in the bottom-left corner of the sheet after you:**
 - *Do not lie to one another. - Col. 3:9*
 - *Do not steal. - Ex. 20:15*
 - *Honor your father and mother. - Ex. 20:12*
 - *Love your neighbor as you love yourself. - Lev. 19:19*
- As we read that list, I'm sure you could like of one, or many, times you didn't obey those rules.
 - ▶ **Have them draw a SAD FACE by each of those commands.**
- What's the special word for disobeying God's rules? (Sin.)
- The first part of the verse we're going to look at today tells us what happens when we sin. Let's say it together.
- ▶ **Have the kids point to the verse on their sheets, in the top-left corner.**
- ▶ **Have them repeat the following after you:**
 - *For the wages*
 - *of sin*
 - *is death. - Rom. 6:23a, ESV*
- The word "wages" means what you earn for doing something. If you mow the lawn for your mom and dad, your wages might be \$5. You earned \$5 for mowing the lawn.
 - ▶ **Have them draw a \$ SIGN by "wages."**
- What did this verse say were the wages of sin? (Death.)
 - ▶ **Have the kids draw a SKULL near this "death."**
- When we sin, even just ONE TIME, the wage we earn is death. That's why the Pharisees couldn't save themselves by being good. Even though they tried to follow some of God's laws, did they obey all of them perfectly, 100% of the time? (No.)

Discuss the second half of the verse:

- So far, all we've talked about is a bunch of bad news. Let's read the second half of the verse, which is filled with good news.
 - ► **Have the kids point to the verse in the top-right corner of the sheet.**
 - ► **Have them repeat:**
 - *but the free gift of God*
 - *is eternal life*
 - *in Christ Jesus*
 - *our Lord. - Rom. 6:23b*
- When we sin, the wages we get are death. The second part of this verse tells us that God wants to give us a gift.
 - ► Have them draw a GIFT by "free gift."
- Instead of death, the gift God wants to give us is eternal life. That means life that goes on forever and ever and ever with God!
 - ► Have the kids draw a ∞ symbol by "eternal life."
- God can give us this gift because of what his Son, Jesus, did to save us from sin.
- What did Jesus do to save us from sin? (Died on a cross, rose from the dead.)
- Jesus died on a cross to pay the wages of our sin: death. And we know he all of our wages because he's raised back alive again! The Bible tells us that anyone who believes the good news that Jesus died and rose again for our sins will be saved.
 - ► Have them trace/write the following in the "What the Bible tells us" box:
 - I'm saved by BELIEVING the good news about JESUS.
 - ► Have them draw JESUS and a CROSS in that Box.
- Because Jesus died on a cross, we can have eternal life with God, instead of eternal death.

Review the verse, if time allows:

- ► **As you explain the following, have the kids point to the things they underlined or drew on their pages.**
- This verse had two parts to it. The first part tells us that the WAGES we earn when we sin is DEATH. Even if we sin once, we've earned death. And we've all sinned a bunch of times!
- That's why it's such a silly thing for the Pharisees to think they could save themselves by following God's Law in the BIBLE. They weren't perfect; they earned death, just like you and me.
- But the good news is that God wants to give us a GIFT. That gift is ETERNAL LIFE, or forever life. And we can have forever life because what JESUS did on the cross!
- So, should you trust in obeying God's law to save us? (No.)
- Should you trust in Jesus to save you? (Yes.)

C. Verse Activity - Length: 15 min.

Resources and Materials: *Verse Sheet (1 per kid), Verse Cards, Movement Rules, Masking Tape, Six-Sided Die*

Verse / Motions: Romans 6:23, ESV - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Wages - pretend to swipe a credit/debit card
- Sin - two thumbs down
- Death - cross your forearms over your chest and bow your head
- Free gift - pretend to hold a box and give it away
- Eternal life - trace an ∞ with your finger
- Christ Jesus - form a cross with your forearms

Setup:

- Write the verse on the board. Set the Verse Cards in a pile at one end of the room.
- Make a Tape Line on the floor near the other end of the room. This is the starting line.
- *Note: If you have a large group of children, duplicate the resources, materials, and setup. Then, run two instances of the activity below simultaneously.*

Discuss the verse and the activity:

- Today's Bible verse is one we just talked about, from the Bible book of Romans.
 - ► **Read the verse in short phrases, having the kids echo after you.**
- A wage is a thing you earn when you do something. When you work a job, you earn a wage of money. But this verse tells us that we earn the wage of death when we sin. But the good news is that we receive the free gift of eternal life by trusting in Jesus. A gift is the opposite of a wage. You don't have to earn it; it's free!
 - ► **Hand each kid a VERSE SHEET. Direct them to quickly trace/write the missing words.**
- As we learn this verse, you're going to have to follow a list of silly rules. These rules will tell you how to move. Each silly rule should remind you of the Pharisees, who made extra rules for people to follow.

How to Do the Activity - Repeat the following with different children...

1. Select a kid to stand at the starting line (the line of TAPE) and roll one of the dice.
2. Tell them what "Movement Rule" they are to follow using the Movement Rules Resource.
 - a. *Chose the Movement Rule that corresponds to the number they rolled on with the dice.*
3. Have them move over to the Verse Cards, pick one up, and move back to the starting line while obeying whatever Movement Rule they were instructed to follow.
4. Read the VERSE CARD to the kids. Teach the motions for those words. Erase those words from the board.
 - a. *Give them something they can quickly draw to represent those words on their sheets. They can draw on their sheets while the children up front are doing the next steps in the activity.*
5. Say the verse as a group, doing any motions you've taught them so far.
 - a. *The first 3-4 times through, say the verse in short phrases and have them echo each after you.*

D. Review Activity - Length: 15 min.

Resources and Materials: Large Plastic Tub, Towels, Glass Bowl, Sticky Liquids*, Hand Soap

* Syrup, Honey, etc.

Setup:

- Fill the tub of water about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.
 - Combine a small amount of the sticky liquids in the glass bowl.
-

Describe the activity:

- Now it's time to answer questions about today's story. Since we learned about some of the extra rules the Pharisees had, we're going to act out some of their rules as we answer each question.
- Since one of the rules was about resting on the Sabbath day, we'll take time to lay down and rest. And since they had a rule about special ways to wash hands, we'll get our hands dirty and sticky, and then wash them clean again.
 - ► **Have the kids spread out throughout the room and lay on their backs.**

How to Do the Activity - Repeat the following with different children...

1. Have 1/9 of the children come up front. Have them dip their hands in the BOWL OF STICKY STUFF.
 - a. *This is because you'll repeat these steps nine times, allowing each child to have a turn.*
2. Have the kids hold their hands over the BOWL so they don't drip on the floor.
3. Ask and have them answer a question from below.
 - a. *You may wish to repeat the question, then have everyone say the answer together.*
4. Have the kids wash their hands in the TUB OF WATER using the HAND SOAP. Have them dry their HANDS using the TOWELS.
 - a. *As they are doing this, you can call up the next group of kids to start these steps over again.*
5. When finished, have them lay back down in their spot in the room.

Questions // Answers

1. What group did we talk about in today's story? // The Pharisees
2. What were the two big problems with the Pharisees? // Made extra rules, thought they could save themselves
3. Name one of the extra rules the Pharisees had. // Washing hands, avoid sinners, no healing on the Sabbath
4. What did Jesus do for the man with a weak hand on the Sabbath? // Healed his hand
5. What did the Pharisees want to do to Jesus after he healed the man on the Sabbath? // Kill him
6. How did the Pharisee pray in our story? // He thanked God that he wasn't a sinner like the tax collector
7. How did the Tax Collector pray in our story? // Said he was a sinner and asked God for mercy, to forgive him
8. Whose sins were forgiven by God, the tax collector or the Pharisee? Why? // The tax collector because he asked God to save him and the Pharisee didn't
9. Who/what should we trust in to be saved: being good and obeying God, or Jesus, who died and rose again? // Jesus

Parent Email Information

To help your students' parents reinforce the lesson, you may wish to email the following information

NT 20 The Pharisees

Reference: Matthew 9:9-13, 12:9-14, Mark 7:1-8, Luke 18:9-14

Story Summary:

The Pharisees were a group of Bible teachers that lived during the life of Jesus. They were very concerned with obeying God's Law. To make sure they obeyed it, they even made extra rules that they and their followers had to obey.

Some of these extra rules included special handwashing, not helping and healing on the Sabbath day, not eating with sinners. The Pharisees hated Jesus because he didn't teach others to follow their extra rules. Even worse, Jesus did follow their extra rules. They were so angry with Jesus that they planned to kill Jesus.

The Pharisees had a big problem. They thought that their obedience to the law would save them. But we know from the Bible that no one can ever be good enough to save themselves, because everyone sins!

Jesus told the Pharisees that he didn't come to save people who thought they were good. He came to call sinners to believe in him and have their sins forgiven.

Big Idea and Motions: We can't be good enough to save ourselves.

- We - point to yourself with both thumbs
- Can't - wag your finger "No!" and put your other hand on your hip
- Good - two thumbs up
- Save - make the baseball "Safe!" sign
- Ourselves - point to yourself with two thumbs again

Verse / Motions: Romans 6:23, ESV - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Wages - pretend to swipe a credit/debit card
- Sin - two thumbs down
- Death - cross your forearms over your chest and bow your head
- Free gift - pretend to hold a box and give it away
- Eternal life - trace an ∞ with your finger
- Christ Jesus - form a cross with your forearms

Questions to Ask Throughout the Week

1. What group did we talk about in today's story? // The Pharisees
2. What were the two big problems with the Pharisees? // Made extra rules, thought they could save themselves
3. Name one of the extra rules the Pharisees had.* // Washing hands, avoid sinners, no healing on the Sabbath
4. What did Jesus do for the man with a weak hand on the Sabbath? // Healed his hand
5. What did the Pharisees want to do to Jesus after he healed the man on the Sabbath? // Kill him
6. How did the Pharisee pray in our story? // He thanked God that he wasn't a sinner like the tax collector
7. How did the Tax Collector pray in our story? // Said he was a sinner and asked God for mercy, to forgive him
8. Whose sins were forgiven by God, the tax collector or the Pharisee? Why? // The tax collector because he asked God to save him and the Pharisee didn't
9. Who/what should we trust in to be saved: being good and obeying God, or Jesus, who died and rose again? // Jesus

* You can ask this question multiple times.

Google Docs Links:

Lesson - <https://goo.gl/LV NK66>

Resources - <https://goo.gl/aDyi35>