



# THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | SERIES: FOCUS: LEARNING TO SEE CLEARLY

TITLE: PARABLE OF TWO PRAYERS

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 18:10-14

## One Thing Follow-up:

**God promises to make things right. Things function on his time, not ours. Our first response is prayer.**

**When faith fails, prayer dies. Or, to reverse the order, persistence in faith leads to persistence in prayer.**

**When we pray, we bend ourselves to God and his will rather than attempting to bend God to us.**

Q. How is your prayer life?

## Opening

As Christians, Scripture is our guide. This means all Scripture, not just the warm and fuzzy parts. Scripture can be hard, convicting. Everything we need to know about God and everything God has to say to Christians can be found on the pages of Scripture. Christians need to be people of Scripture now, maybe more than ever.

## Series Review

We are continuing in the series this week called Focus: Learning to see clearly. This series will focus on the parables shared by Jesus. These parables will both challenge us and instruct us. This week we will be taught through a meal that our work is to invite all to the table.

## Review the Message

**In the first century, Pharisees were the good guys and tax collectors were lowest of the low.**

Q. What was your initial understanding of the Pharisees? Of tax collectors?

**Read Luke 18:10-12**

Q. Does this prayer strike you as arrogant or bragging?

Q. What does your preaching prayer look like?

**Read Luke 18:13**

Q. Have you ever prayed this prayer?

Q. If we ended the parable here, how would you end it?

Q. Share the circumstances that have brought you to pray a prayer like this?

**We are going to see how Jesus now hits the handle on the trapdoor. He now explains the parable and changes how everyone sees these prayers.**

**Read Luke 18:14**

Q. How do we see these prayers?

Q. When was the last time you trusted in yourself? How did that work out for you?

**The problem with the Pharisee is not his spiritual life. It is what his spiritual life is built on-his own performance. He trusts in himself.**

Q. How do we have a tendency to elevate ourselves over others?

Q. What is the difference between merit based performance and grace based performance?

**The tax collector ELEVATES God. His faith was not in himself. His only hope was God's grace.**

Q. Share how you elevate God in your life.

**Justification before God comes from trusting Jesus' sacrifice, not on anything we can do.**

Q. How has your dependency on God changed recently?

**RUMBLE STRIPS-danger signs of trusting yourself**

- 1. Comparison**
- 2. Fault-finding**
- 3. No Desparation**

Q. Who is the worst sinner you know? Do you believe it?



**Living It Out  
Application**

**When you are focused on your own need for grace, you will rest in Jesus and the cross.**

Q. What is God saying to you through this lesson?

Q. What will you do about it this coming week?

Q. How can we help you?

**Prayer:**

Q. Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?