



SEPTEMBER 2024

## September 1

### I am Known

#### Kindergarten - 5th grade

#### Leader Notes

**Bible Passage:** The Pharisee and the Tax Collector- Luke 18:9-14

**Bottom Line:** God knows my real thoughts.

**Leader Context:** In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus told a story about two men praying in the temple. The Pharisee, a religious leader, was proud and thought he was impressive. The tax collector, who was looked down upon in that culture, prayed with humility and recognized his need for God. We can learn in this story that God knows and cares about our real thoughts. When kids are asking, Does anyone know the real me? we get to teach them that God does. He knows everything about them, even their thoughts and He gives them what they really need- a relationship with Jesus.

**THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS:** Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

#### Social

#### Games and Music (10 minutes)

**What You Need:** Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, "Allergy Alert" printable (1 per group); Play dough (1 per child); Small items such as coins, pencils, plastic toys, and so forth (several)

#### What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

**Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

#### Videos

#### Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

#### Bible Story Recap- Say This

The Pharisee was an important religious leader. But when he prayed, he was focused on building himself up and bragging about how good he was. The tax collector was disliked by many people. But when he prayed, he humbled himself and asked God to forgive him. When Jesus told this story, He was helping people know that God knows their real thoughts. Repeat after me. "God knows my real thoughts!" (*God knows my real thoughts!*) God knows we don't think right things all the time, but He loves us so much that He gives us what we need.

**Gospel Connection:** Even though on the outside looking in, the Pharisee looked like he had it all together. But he was missing the most important thing—Forgiveness. *Using the Four Circles of the Gospel show kids how each circle relates to the Bible story today.*

*(Circle two)* The Pharisee was stuck in this circle of brokenness. The way he prayed showed that he thought he could be good enough to earn attention from God and people through his words and actions. He didn't recognize that he was a sinner who needed forgiveness. We are broken, too, because of sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. And because God knows our thoughts, He knows the wrong things we think—those are sins too.

*(Circle three)* The tax collector knew that he needed forgiveness, so he asked God to forgive him. God knew the tax collector's real thoughts and forgave him. It's good news that God knows our real thoughts, and He offers a way for our sins to be forgiven. That's why He sent His Son, Jesus. We can admit our brokenness to God and believe that Jesus came to take the punishment for our sin. We can confess that we need forgiveness and choose to follow Jesus. *(Circle four)*

*(Circle one)* God designed the world perfectly and with a plan for everyone to have a relationship with Him. Now we can have that relationship by recognizing and confessing our sin and brokenness, believing in Jesus, and asking for forgiveness. God makes us new, and one day, we will get to live with Him forever!

God knows that the real us really needs Jesus. When we trust and follow Jesus, we can honor God in how we think, speak, and act.

God knows your real thoughts. He knows the real you. And He loves you. Say, "I am known!" (*I am known!*) Say, "God knows my real thoughts!" (*God knows my real thoughts!*) He really does! If you have questions about the Bible story or any of the circles, talk with me.

**Xray Thoughts (15 minutes)**

**What You Need:** Xray pictures (1 set per group), Real Thoughts Printable (1 per kid) crayons and markers, Bibles

**What You Do:** We're going to look at some X-ray pictures. Some what? (X-ray pictures!) X-ray pictures are special pictures that can show the bones inside our bodies! I will show you an X-ray picture, and you can tell me what bones you think they are. Ready?

What do you think this is? (A hand!) A hand! Great job. How about this one?

How about this one? (A foot!) That's right, it's a foot! What about this last one?

Any guesses? (A head!) It's a head! Super cool! X-ray machines take pictures that show us the inside of our bodies. We can feel that we have bones in our bodies, but without an X-ray, we can't see them.

That's kind of like our thoughts. We know our thoughts, but other people can't just look at us and know what we're thinking. But guess what? Everyone, ask, "What?" (What?) God looks at us, and He can see and know everything! Not just bones. God knows what we're thinking all the time. There's nothing that God doesn't know. We can trust that He knows everything we need. God knows our real thoughts, and He still loves us. Real Talk: God knows everything about us, and He will always love us. God doesn't need an X-ray machine to know our thoughts. Everyone, say, "God knows my real thoughts!" (God knows my real thoughts!)

Sometimes, we might feel like no one knows the real us. Like no one knows our true thoughts and feelings. But today we are going to learn that we are known by God.

Everyone, say, "I am known!" (*I am known!*) Yes, you are! Our God is amazing, and He knows everything about us.

I'm going to pass out some papers to everyone. You will notice 4 boxes on your paper. I want you to take a few minutes and think how you would draw pictures to show the different settings in each box. If you need help reading the words, I would be happy to read it with you.

God knows everything about us. He knows what we think about and what we like. And you know what? God knows the good, bad, kind and unkind, serious and even the silly thoughts we have every day. God knows us. Everyone say, "I am known."

Let's look at a few words from the Bible to help us remember we are known by God. Let's look at 1 John 3:20b It says: "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things." As we look at these discussion questions together, I want you to consider how this verse can help you this week at school and home.

### Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

**What To Do:** Hey, everyone, let's get ready to have some "Real Talk" and answer a few questions together.

- What is something you like to think about, and why do you think you like thinking about it? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
- Have you or someone you know ever had an X-ray? What is the difference between what an X-ray picture shows and what God knows about you? *(You need an X-ray machine to see inside you, but God sees and knows everything without a machine. God knows our real thoughts.)*
- The Bible tells us God knows our real thoughts. Let's open our Bibles to Luke 18:14 and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* What kinds of thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions do you think are the ones Jesus was talking about? What does it mean to be humble? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
- God knows the real you. He knows your real thoughts, and He still forgives us for our wrong and sinful thoughts. What can you do when you have thoughts that aren't pleasing to God? *(Ask God to forgive me.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are known. Real Talk: God knows everything about you including your real thoughts. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)* Let's talk to God by praying. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

God, thank You for allowing us to come and learn more about You today. Thank You for being a forgiving God, even when we don't deserve it. Help us recognize and confess our sin, be humble, and follow You. Be with us as we continue to learn more about You. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.

We won't always know our friends' real thoughts, but God will always know us. God knows our real thoughts, and He loves us no matter what!

### Going Home

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.