



**Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide:
SERMON ON THE MOUNT 2.25.2018**

1. Describe self-righteousness. What makes self-righteousness so unattractive?
2. READ Luke 18:9-14
3. In his prayer, the Pharisee seems to be doing many right things -- he fasts, he gives, he says he doesn't do wrong -- what do you think is missing in his prayer?
4. The incredible reversal in this story is that the Pharisee, who thought he was the closest to God was actually furthest, and the tax collector, who thought he was furthest, was actually closest. The recognition of his sin brought the tax collector in right relationship with God and closer to God. What does that tell you about grace? How is this contrary to what you think people normally think about sin and God?
5. What do you find most difficult about acknowledging and confessing sin?
6. Read Matthew 5:6
7. Righteousness is about right relationship with God, with ourselves, and with other people. In what parts of your life is it easy to see unrighteousness, and in what parts is it difficult?
8. In what areas of society do you long to see more righteousness? In what ways can you take action to bring about right relationships?
9. Physical hunger and thirst were a constant feeling for the people Jesus was speaking to in the first century. What does this metaphor tell you about seeking righteousness? How does hungering and thirsting for righteousness intertwine with the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector we read earlier?

Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. If you or someone in your group is comfortable, give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.