



### Have the following materials available for these animation exercises:

- The *World Mission Sunday* poster.
  - A Bible and the *World Mission Sunday* prayer.
- A lighted candle, a crucifix or any other items that lead to prayer.

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican is widely known. We shall use it as our focus of meditation and link it with the theme of *World Mission Sunday*: **Church, Family, let us be merciful.**

### Let us hear the Word of God

The following text from the Gospel is suggested: Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee considers only what is good in his behavior. He thinks that he doesn't need mercy. He contents himself with displaying before God and mankind, all his greatness and uprightness. He takes an ostentatious position in the temple.

The Publican withdraws, enters within his heart and acknowledges that he needs divine mercy. He remains hidden and keeps his distance.

Jesus says that one of them is justified and the other is not.

### Use the following questions as the basis for a group discussion:

- Is it wrong to tell God about the good deeds that we accomplish?
- Why does Jesus say that the Pharisee is not justified even though many Pharisees were known as virtuous men, and even as saints?
- Why was the Publican justified if he was known as a public sinner?
- How should the following words of the Lord's Prayer be understood? "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

### Prayer

A person reads the text in italics.

The others will answer what is written in bold.

*While Jesus was teaching inside a house, a paralyzed man was lowered through the roof and laid before him. Jesus said:*

**"Friend, your sins are forgiven you."** (Luke 5:20)

*Jesus came upon a crowd of elders preparing to stone a woman for the sin of adultery. Jesus confronted the crowd calling to whoever had no sin to throw the first stone. None came forward and Jesus said to the woman:*

**"Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."** (John 8:11)



To the penitent thief, who admitted that he deserved the fate that he was enduring and asked Jesus to remember him when he enters his kingdom, Jesus said:

**“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”** (Luke 23:43)

When the prodigal son came back, he said: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son...” But the father said to his slaves:

**“Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.** (Luke 15:21-24)

When he was in the house of Simon, the Pharisee, Jesus said to the woman that was anointing his feet with ointment:

**“Your sins are forgiven (...) Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”** (Luke 7:48-50)

As the soldiers, without remorse, cast lots to divide his clothing at the foot of the cross, Jesus said:

**“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”** (Luke 23:34)

### **Prayer** (Together)

Lord, we have noticed that you have always used mercy in your relationships with humans. We would like to imitate you and act with mercy in all our encounters with our brothers and sisters. Also, we would like to be merciful towards the people that hurt us and make us suffer. Amen.

Now, let us recite the prayer for *World Mission Sunday*.

#### **Missionary Prayer of Mercy**

God, Merciful Father, your Incarnation has revealed to us your infinite love for the world. Through the Holy Spirit, we entrust to you our world and every person who seeks meaning in their lives and who needs your love the most.

Through Jesus, grant us the grace of being merciful to our brothers and sisters. May our words, our actions and our prayers allow us to experience your blessed mercy.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, teach us to be signs of mercy for the world.

Merciful Father, grant your mercy to the whole world.

Amen.