

Unrooting the R.A.G.S.

Lesson 4: Superiority vs. Humility

Objectives:

Students will

- define superiority as seeing one's self as better than others (even when it's not true)
- evaluate themselves in an appropriate (more humble) manner

Materials Needed

- ☐ Clip of Air Farce episode 14-17 titled “Critic: Best Picture”
(<http://www.airfarce.com/seasons/season14/index.html>)
- ☐ Commentary (either online or book) of Luke 18:9-14 (one per group of 4)
- ☐ Bible (one per student)

Pre-lesson

To follow up from the previous lesson, ask students to pair up with another person, share how they did with the generosity option they chose, and be prepared to share their partner's answer with the larger group. Solicit 4-5 answers as a large group.

Minds On

Show the Air Farce clip. Afterwards, ask students to vote whether they liked the character Gilbert Smythe Bite-Me. If yes, move to the right side of the room; if not, then to the left side of the room. Solicit 2-3 answers from each side on why they did (or did not) like Gilbert.

Action

In groups of four, have students study the passage Luke 18:9-14. Provide each group with at least one commentary (the more, the better) and a Bible per person. As a group, they need to create a human sculpture scene (involving at least two people) that best portrays this passage. They can use props in their sculpture. The sculpture must be ready for presentation to the larger group within 20 minutes.

When ready for presentation, have the first group present (without words) their sculpture. Have one member in each of the other groups (going clock-wise) give one comment (either an emotion, thought or perception they got when they saw that sculpture). After each group has given a comment, have the presenting group explain what they were trying to convey. Continue with the next group presenting in the same sequence.

Leader's note: The main point students will hopefully present is the idea that the Pharisee, though he was externally doing everything "correctly," ultimately had an attitude of superiority

that God does not like, while the tax collector, though he was known to have made mistakes or sinned, had the right attitude of humility before God.

Consolidate/Debrief

Say something like: Superiority is sometimes a hard attitude to combat. The other characteristics we've looked at previously are easier to identify. But this one seems to be subtle and sneaks up on you. Romans 12:3 reminds us that we are to judge ourselves objectively/soberly. Chances are, you are better than someone else in one area of life while someone is better than you in other areas. But it's the attitude of "I'm better than you" that God dislikes. (If you've already completed the "Invitation" lesson on humility from the "Stories of Christ" module, you may want to refer back to the learnings from that as well.)

Challenge students to take some extended time by themselves to ask God if there have been moments where they've harboured a superior attitude, or whether they've conveyed that to other people. Give them ten minutes individually to ask God to reveal those attitudes. If needed, challenge them to reconcile themselves to God about that attitude, and if applicable, to reconcile with those people whom they've had that attitude against.