



To Be or Not to Be - Week 3
Be Confident, Not Insecure - Discussion & Reflection Guide

Questions and Prompts:

- **Can you think of an example in your life when you were humbled?** Have you ever realized your limitations or adjusted your expectations of yourself? How did it feel? How did it affect you?
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs and the message? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- **Do you naturally tend toward humility or toward self-confidence in your personality?** Is your version of humility or self-confidence a healthy version? **Take a moment for some honest self-reflection.** (If you need something to help, read Romans 12:3.)
- Eddie shared that "following Jesus closely produces the ideal amounts of both humility and confidence." **How does following Jesus challenge you to find a more godly type of humility and self-confidence?**
- **Read Jesus' teaching in Luke 18:9-12.** Have someone read the passage out loud if you're in a group.
 - Is there a word or phrase that stands out from this scripture?
 - When have you been like the Pharisee in this story?
 - When have you been like the tax collector?
 - How do you sense Jesus speaking to you through this story?
- Eddie said, "When confidence morphs into pride, we resist instruction." **Are there people you have a hard time learning from? Why is that?**
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**
- In Jesus' parable, the humble, simple prayer of the tax collector is the one he desires. **Borrow this prayer as you close your time: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."** You can keep your prayer as simple as those words, or add your own.

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- Romans 12:3 – “Don't think you are better than you really are.”
- Romans 12:3 - “Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves.”
- **Following Jesus closely produces the ideal amounts of both humility and confidence.**
- Titus 3:4-5 – “But when God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.”
- **Spiritual performance breeds pretense.**
- **When confidence morphs into pride, we resist instruction.**
- Luke 18:9 – “Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else:”
- Luke 18:10 - “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector.”
- Luke 18:12 - “The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people — cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’”
- Luke 18:13 - “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed.”
- Luke 18:13b - “Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’”
- Luke 18:14 - “I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”
- **Spiritual confidence flows from divine mercy, not human comparison.**
- Philippians 2:3 – “Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.”
- Philippians 2:3 (The Message) – “Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead.”
- **God is attracted to authenticity, not perfection.**
- Ephesians 2:8-9 – “God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”