

## Ice Breaker

 (in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

Share what your plans are for thanksgiving this year.

## Talk About it!

### Part 1

#### Psalm 145:13 NLT

For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does.

#### Romans 14:17 NLT

17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

#### Discuss:

- A. What does it do for you to recalibrate your heart on God's Kingdom?
- B. How are you currently experiencing the three marks of the Kingdom of God mentioned in Romans 14:17, even with the backdrop of a tense election cycle?

### Part 2

#### Luke 18:9-14 NIV

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

#### Discuss:

- A. If this parable was a lesson on how not to pray, and how to pray, what would the lesson be?
- B. What does the parable show you about the kind of heart posture that is right in God's eyes?

## Part 3

### Luke 18:13-14 NIV

13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

#### Discuss:

- A. Consider the parable further. The parable presents a polarity with two kinds of people. Is there anything you need to adjust at the heart level in light of it?
- B. What would you need to do to emulate the man who went home justified?

## Part 4

### Romans 3:21–22 NLT

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses[a] and the prophets long ago. 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

#### Discuss:

What do you appreciate about the truth revealed in this scripture and how has it changed your life?

## Part 5

### Acts 3:19 NIV

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

### 2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

#### Discuss:

- A. How does repentance affect the people who engage in it?
- B. What is the effect of real repentance?