“Lay Down Your Burden”

(1) Getting Started	(3) Digging Deeper
Groups With Kids • **Questions for Kids:** “What are you looking forward to more: Thanksgiving or Christmas, and why?” **Question for Adults** • Have you ever felt that someone’s approval of you depended on your performance? How did that impact your relationship with them? **Prayer** • Take prayer requests and pray for each other.	**Discuss** • Why would Jesus’ original listeners have admired the Pharisee and despised the tax collector? • Why was the ending so shocking? • Do we ever put people on pedestals that really shouldn't be there? Why? **Read** • Philippians 3:4-9 • How does Paul’s change of perspective help explain what it means to be justified by faith rather than good works? **Read** • Matthew 5:16 • What are good works meant to do?
(2) Read Scripture	(4) Application
Read • Luke 18:9-14 **Discuss** • Compare and contrast the two men in the parable. How are they alike and how are they different? • What does each man's prayer reveal about how he views God and views himself? • What does Jesus’ verdict in verse 14 teach us about humility, mercy, and justification?	**Questions** • Which burden is harder for you to lay down: the drive to be good enough or the feeling you are too far gone to be forgiven? Why? • How can remembering that we all need mercy change the way you view someone whose choices or background differ from yours? • What would it look like this week to lay down that burden and rest in Christ’s righteousness instead of your own performance? • **Memorize:** Philippians 3:7-8