

STORY: Two Debtors (Luke 7:36-43)

Getting Started

Introductions

Set up circle and pocket chart with story graphic.

Nametags, Attendance

- *Pass out baggies with materials for participants to make nametags*
- *Take attendance, greet each participant*

Opening: The Story

Light candle, sing "Listen to the Word," tell story, pray.

Explain the Talking Piece

We'll do different activities to learn this story; sometimes we'll use a talking piece. The talking piece creates a space in which everyone can speak and listen in peace. Each person in the circle gets a chance to speak without being interrupted, and to listen without needing to respond.

When we are using a talking piece, here is how it works:

- 1. The talking piece is passed around the circle from person to person.**
- 2. Only the person holding the talking piece may speak.**
- 3. It is always okay to pass; just say, "I pass."**

Check-In Round

Today our talking piece is: **Doll from Cameroon**

We will use it for a check-in round; when the talking piece comes to you please...

- 1. Say your name**
- 2. Tell us how familiar you are with the story (new, heard before, could tell)**
- 3. Say a word about how you are feeling today**

I'll go first...

Agreements Round

These are the four agreements for our time together:

- 1. Honor the talking piece—when it is being used, speak only when you are holding it**
- 2. Speak from the heart—tell your truth as you are comfortable to share**
- 3. Listen from the heart—be attentive, with a positive spirit; avoid side conversations, comments or questions.**
- 4. Protect personal privacy—Tell about God, Jesus, this class and the story we learn, but keep confidential personal information that is shared**

Any questions?

Now let us see if we can all accept these agreements: I accept these agreements...

Engaging the Story

Word I Heard

As you listen to the story again, notice if any word or phrase that especially gets your attention... *Read or tell story*

Before you open your eyes, think of a word or phrase from the story that got your attention, or another word or phrase that comes to mind...

For this round, name a word or phrase that you heard in the story, or that came to mind in response to hearing the story.

For a follow-up round, we can tell why we picked our word or phrase... .

About the Story

Read-around with hand-out.

Storyboard → Partner Telling

After creating a storyboard, participants take turns telling story to the person next to them, using their storyboard as an aid to memory.

“Evaluate” tellings using “Word I Heard” cards: “Who had something about...?”

Name-an-Episode Round

Participants comment on how the telling went and then identify the part of the story that is their favorite, or that caught their attention the most. They may also show their storyboard.

Connections Rounds

Each person has an opportunity to respond to possible connections between the story and their life experience. Connection topics are named by the Circlekeeper.

- **A dinner party you attended**
- **Receiving a big welcome when you went someplace**

My Story in God’s Story

After the Connections round, the story is told again; participants are encouraged to listen to the story keeping in mind the connections they spoke aloud or made in silence, allowing the story to hold their life experience in a sacred space.

Collection

Closing