**Leader Notes for “When Bad Boys Win” Luke 18:9-14**

1. **Who’s your favorite “bad boy” in movies, TV, or books? What makes that character attractive to you?**
2. **Who’s the holiest person you know personally?** (You can’t say Mother Theresa if you haven’t met her personally).
3. **In the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector going to church, who is the good guy? Who’s the bad boy? What seems to be the reason the “bad boy” went away from church with Jesus’ stamp of approval but the “good guy” didn’t?** (Who they compared themselves to. One was proud, thinking he could stand before God. The other was humble, relying totally on God’s mercy and grace to forgive his sin.)
4. **Who do you tend to compare yourself to in life? In what areas of life do you compare yourself to others?** (athletics, work, physical appearance, church). **What tends to happen when you compare yourself to others?** (Either pride or inferiority).
5. Truly good people don’t compare themselves to others. Truly good people measure themselves upwards. Compared to God, none of us is righteous. Confessing Christ, none of us is guilty. **Does comparing ourselves against Jesus lead to positive change or negative feelings of hopelessness that we can never measure up to God’s standards?**
6. **Did the Apostle Paul’s road to spiritual maturity lead him to think less of himself, or just become more aware of his sinfulness?**

2 Cor. 11:5 – equal with super apostles

1 Cor. 15:9 – less than the least of the apostles

Eph. 3:8 – less than the least of God’s people

1 Tim. 1:15 – chief of sinners

**How would you describe your own journey towards spiritual maturity? How would others see how you’ve grown? What are 1 or 2 milestone markers of Christian growth for you?**

1. **Do Christians suffer from poor self-image more or less than unbelievers? Why is that? Do believers often confuse a poor self-image with humility? What’s the difference?**
2. **Read Ps. 51:17; Ps.34:18; Is. 57:15.** **What would it look like if we put the truth of those verses into practice?**
3. **Is going to church an experience that changes you regularly? Why or why not? Is our life group a positive change agent for you?**