


The background is a light cream color. It features several green, feathery leaves scattered around the edges. In the center, there is a large, stylized illustration of two hands clasped in prayer, rendered in shades of pink and purple. Behind the hands is a large, semi-circular shape in a warm, golden-yellow color. Small, solid-colored dots in green, yellow, and red are scattered throughout the background.

**FIRST, YOU**

**Pray**

**3**



# 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT

<sup>16</sup> Always be joyful. <sup>17</sup> Never stop praying. <sup>18</sup> Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.




**Prayer should be  
our first response,  
not our last resort.**

# Luke 11:5-8 NLT

<sup>5</sup> Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, <sup>6</sup> ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ <sup>7</sup> And suppose he calls out from his


# Luke 11:5-8 NLT

bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' <sup>8</sup> But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence."



# Luke 11:9-10 NLT


<sup>9</sup> “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”





# Luke 11:11-13 NLT

<sup>11</sup> “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! <sup>13</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”





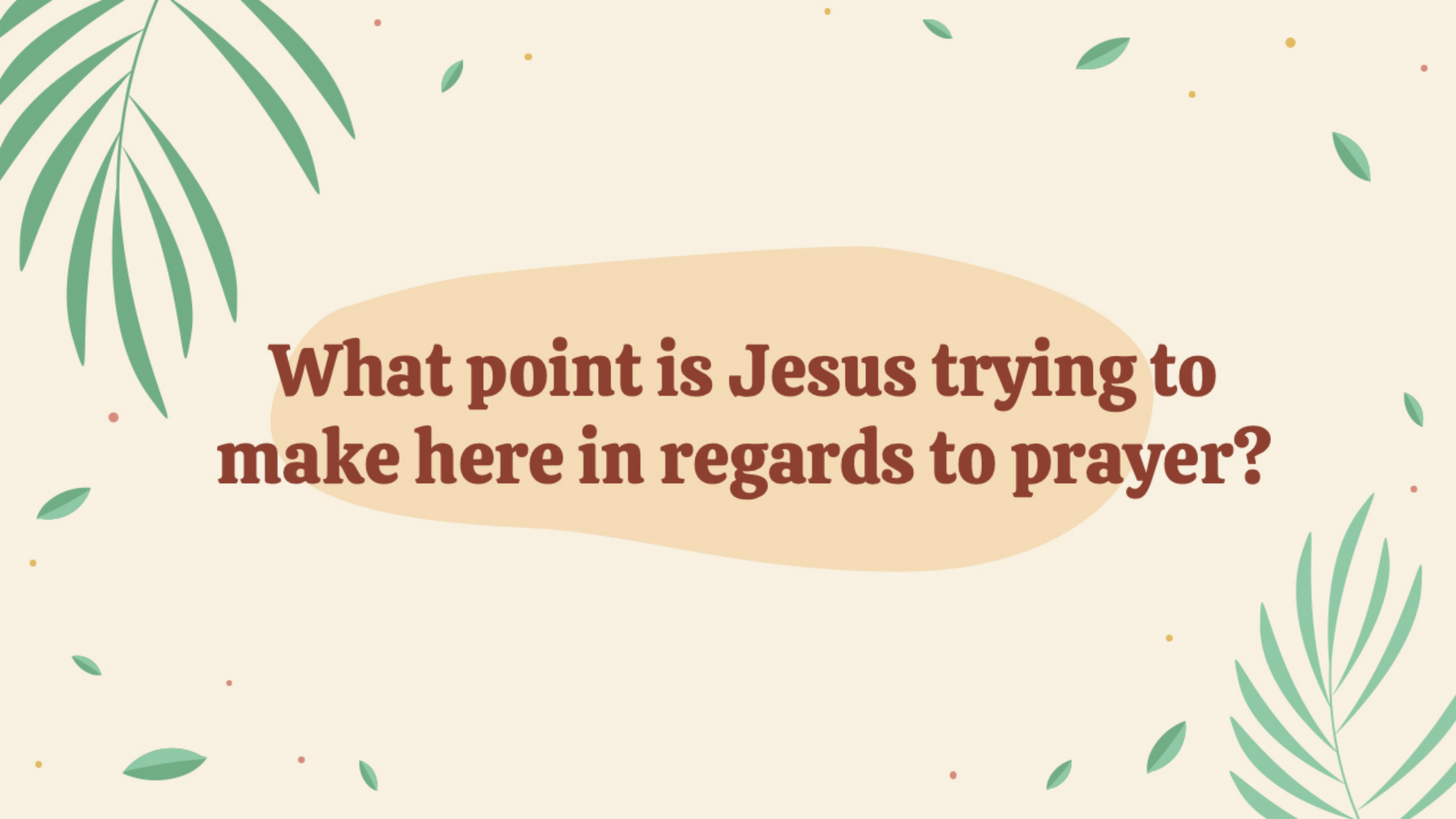
# Luke 18:15-17 NLT

<sup>15</sup> One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But when the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents for bothering him.



# Luke 18:15-17 NLT

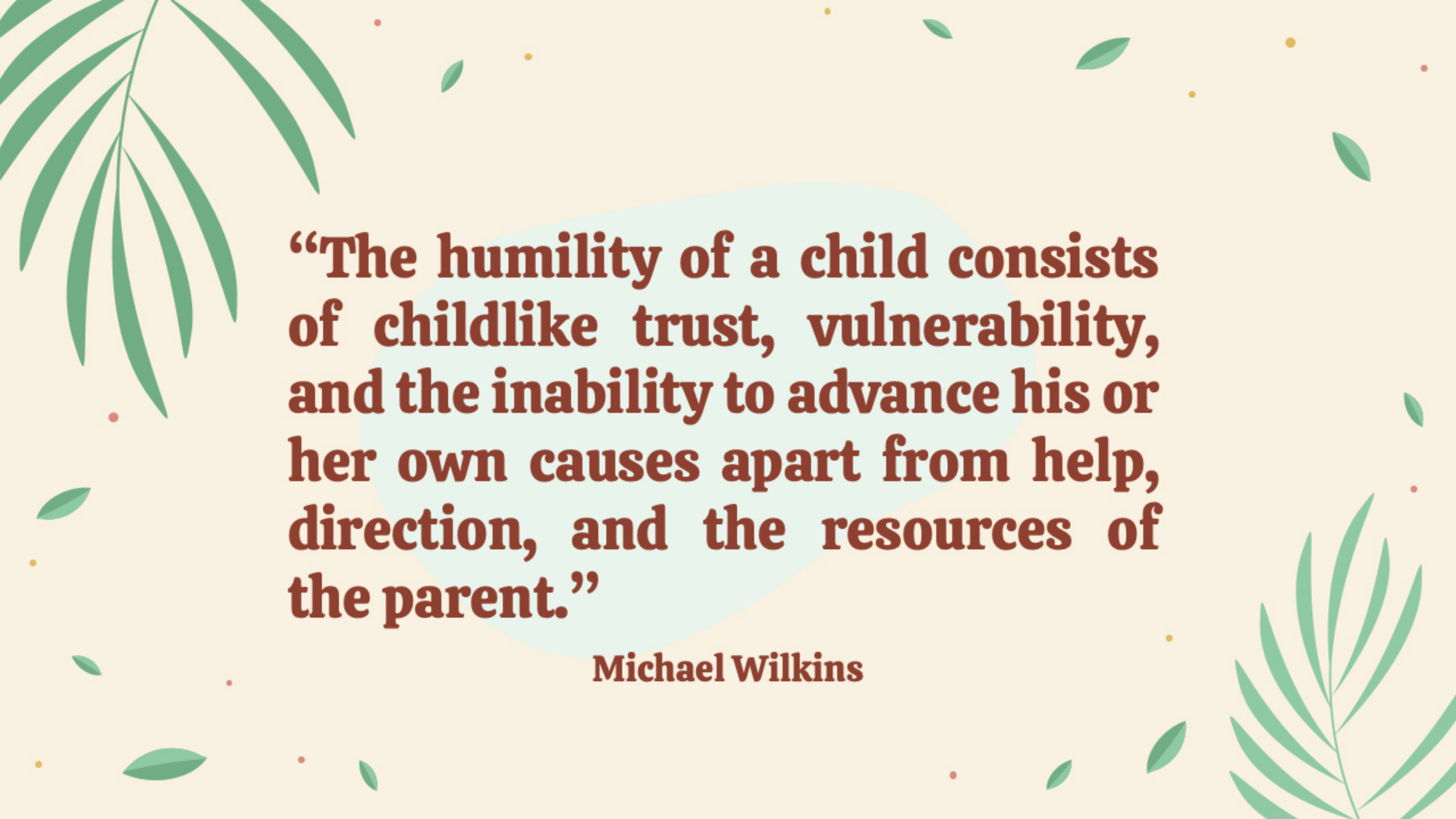
<sup>16</sup> Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples , “Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. <sup>17</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”

The background is a light cream color with scattered green leaves of various shapes and sizes, along with small red and yellow dots. A large, light orange oval is centered on the page, containing the text.

**What point is Jesus trying to make here in regards to prayer?**

As we approach  
God in prayer,  
we need to have  
the humility of  
a child.





**“The humility of a child consists of childlike trust, vulnerability, and the inability to advance his or her own causes apart from help, direction, and the resources of the parent.”**

**Michael Wilkins**

# Luke 18:9-12 NLT

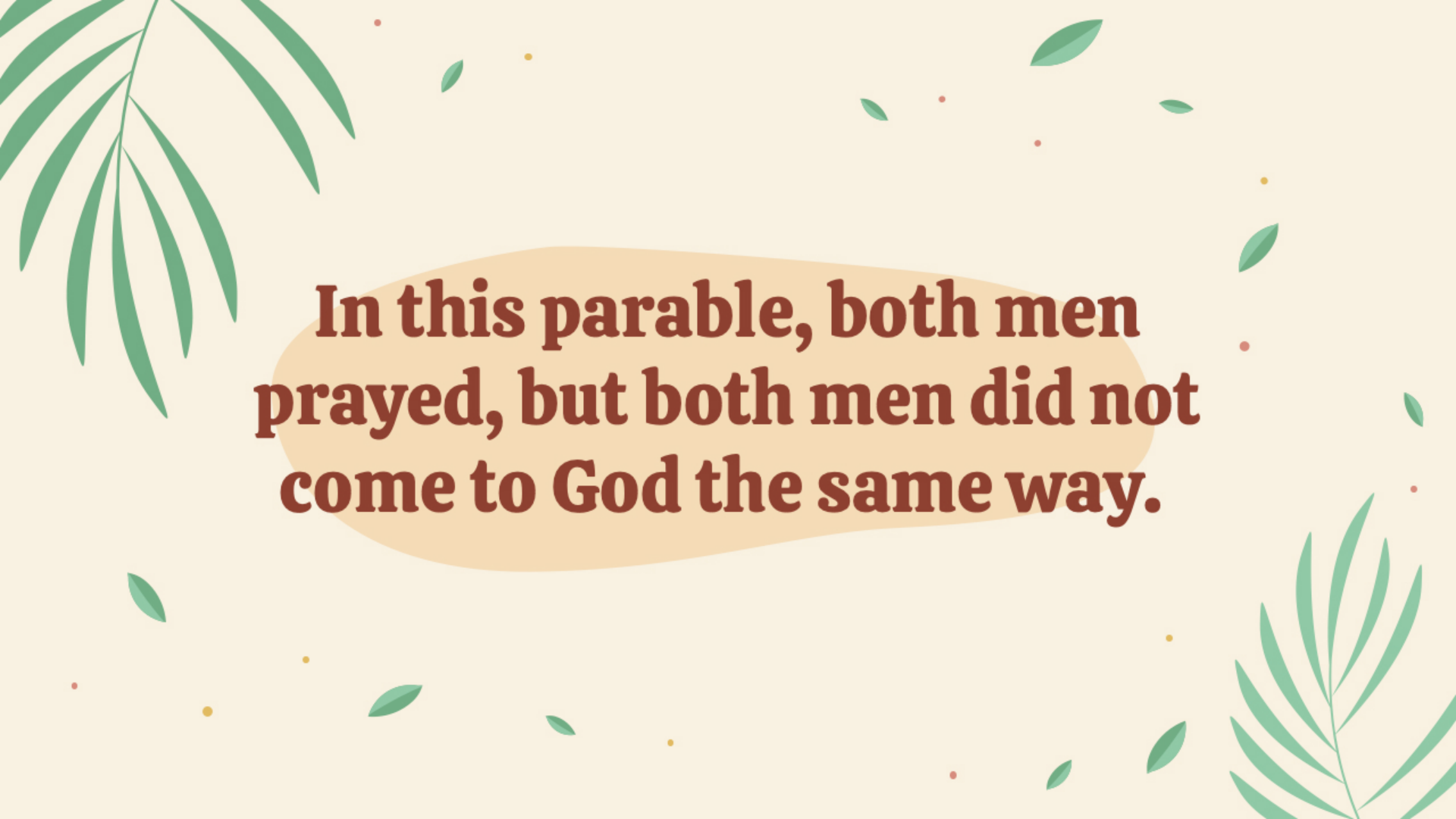
<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The

# Luke 18:9-12 NLT

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! <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'"

# Luke 18:13 NLT

<sup>13</sup> “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’”

The background is a light cream color with scattered green leaves of various shapes and sizes, along with small red and orange dots. A large, light orange, irregularly shaped oval is centered on the page, containing the text.

**In this parable, both men  
prayed, but both men did not  
come to God the same way.**





**In this parable, both men prayed, but both men did not come to God the same way.**

**The Pharisee trusted himself, the tax collector trusted the mercy and compassion of God.**

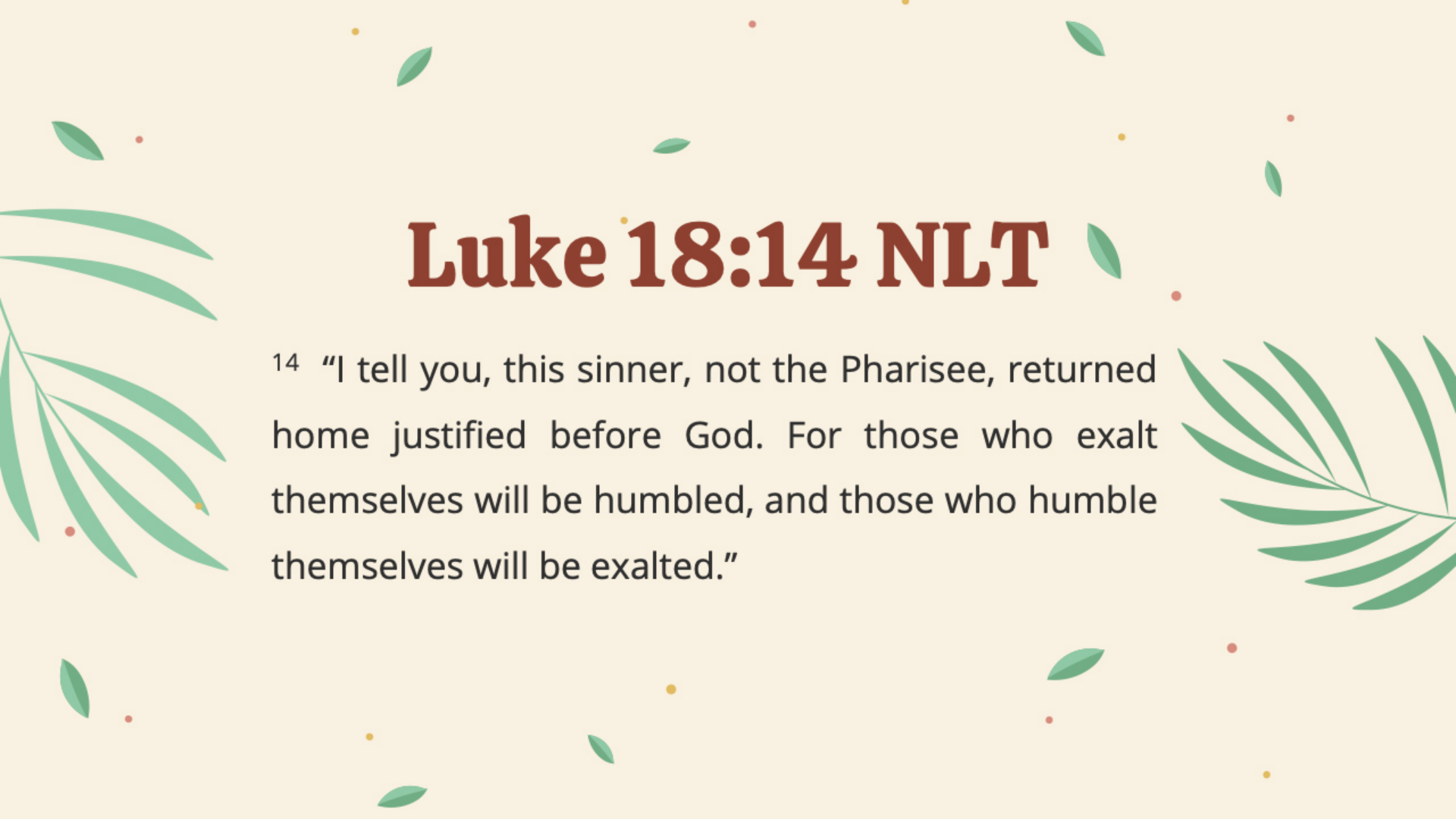
**In this parable, both men prayed, but both men did not come to God the same way.**

**The Pharisee compared himself with others, the tax collector took responsibility for himself.**



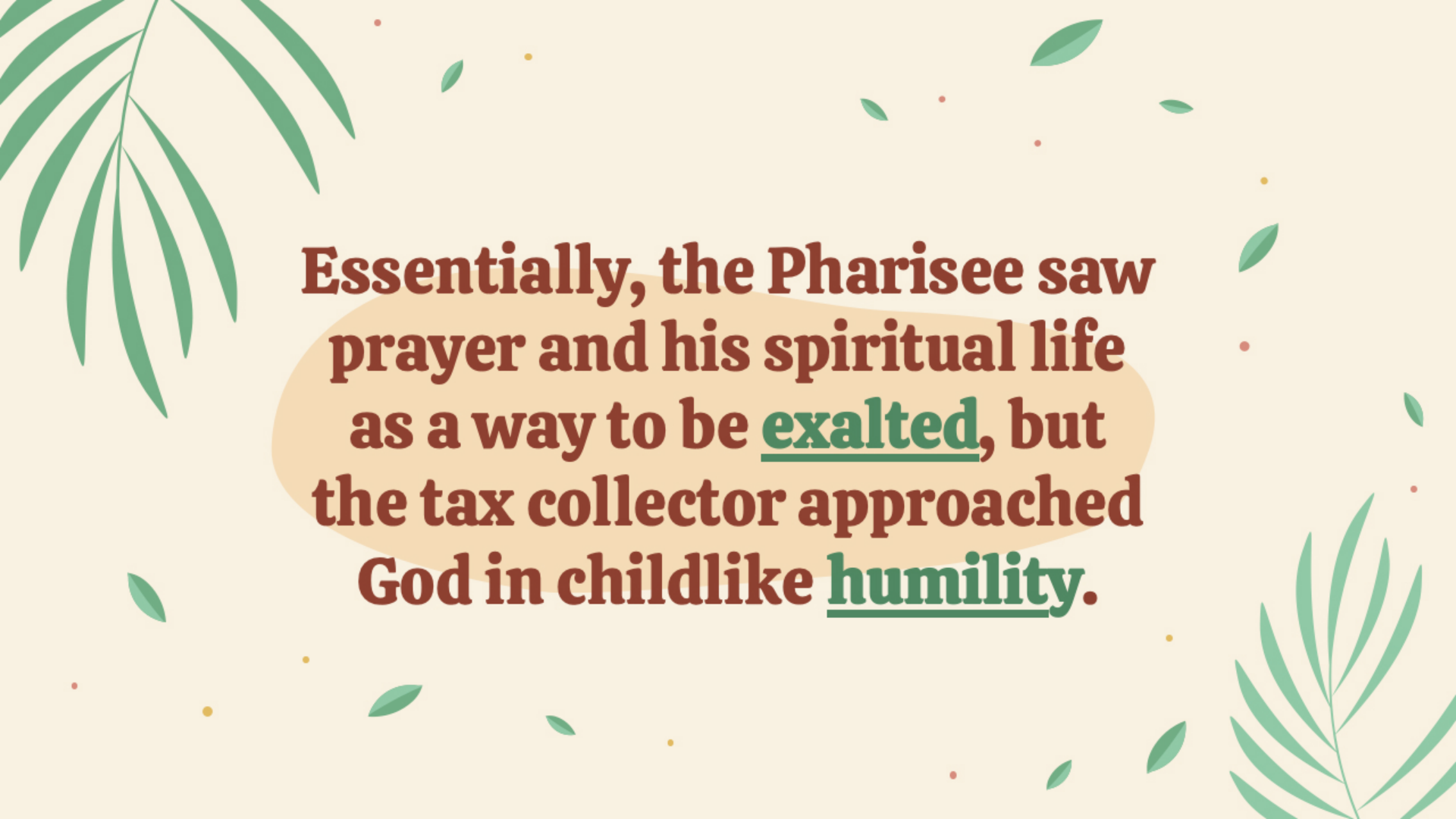
**In this parable, both men prayed, but both men did not come to God the same way.**

**The Pharisee relied on his own power and deeds, the tax collector could only rely on God.**



# Luke 18:14 NLT

<sup>14</sup> "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."

The background is a light cream color with scattered green leaves of various shapes and sizes, some with prominent veins. Small orange and red dots are also scattered throughout. The text is centered in a dark brown font, with the words 'exalted' and 'humility' highlighted in green and underlined. The text is set against a light orange oval background.

**Essentially, the Pharisee saw prayer and his spiritual life as a way to be exalted, but the tax collector approached God in childlike humility.**