LENT

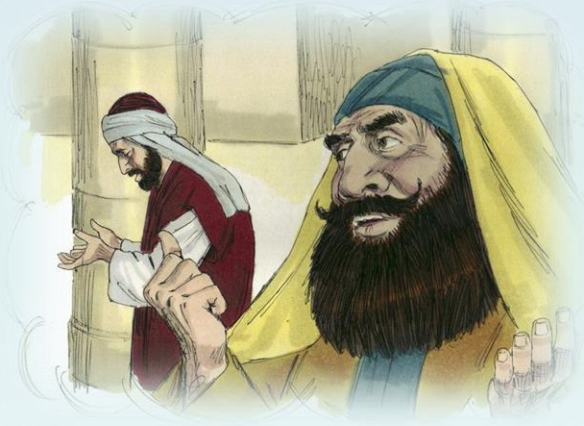
Year 4 R.E.

Week Beginning Monday 1st March 2021

Lesson 1.

L.O: to know the story of the Pharisee and the publican.

To understand something about the forgiveness of God from this parable.



The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else.



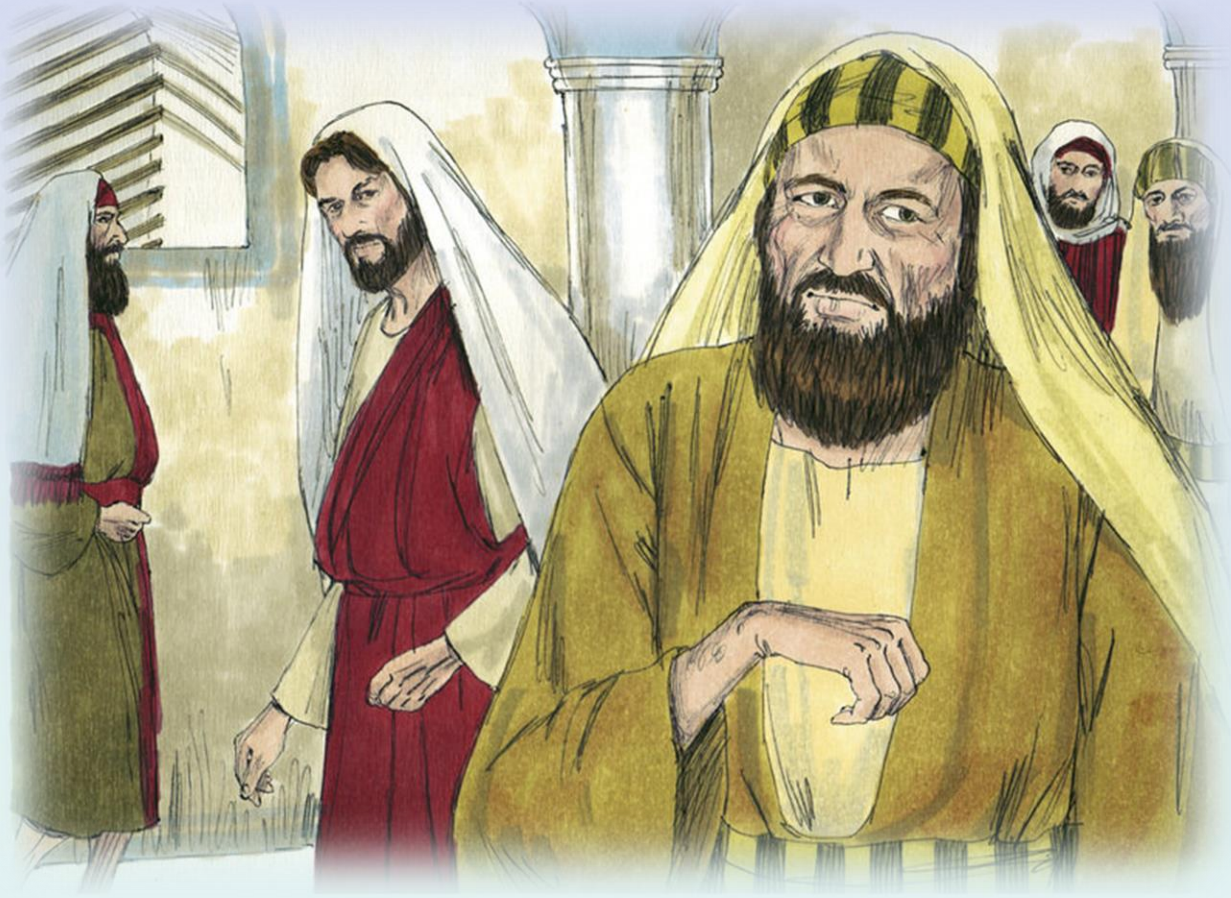
"Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector.



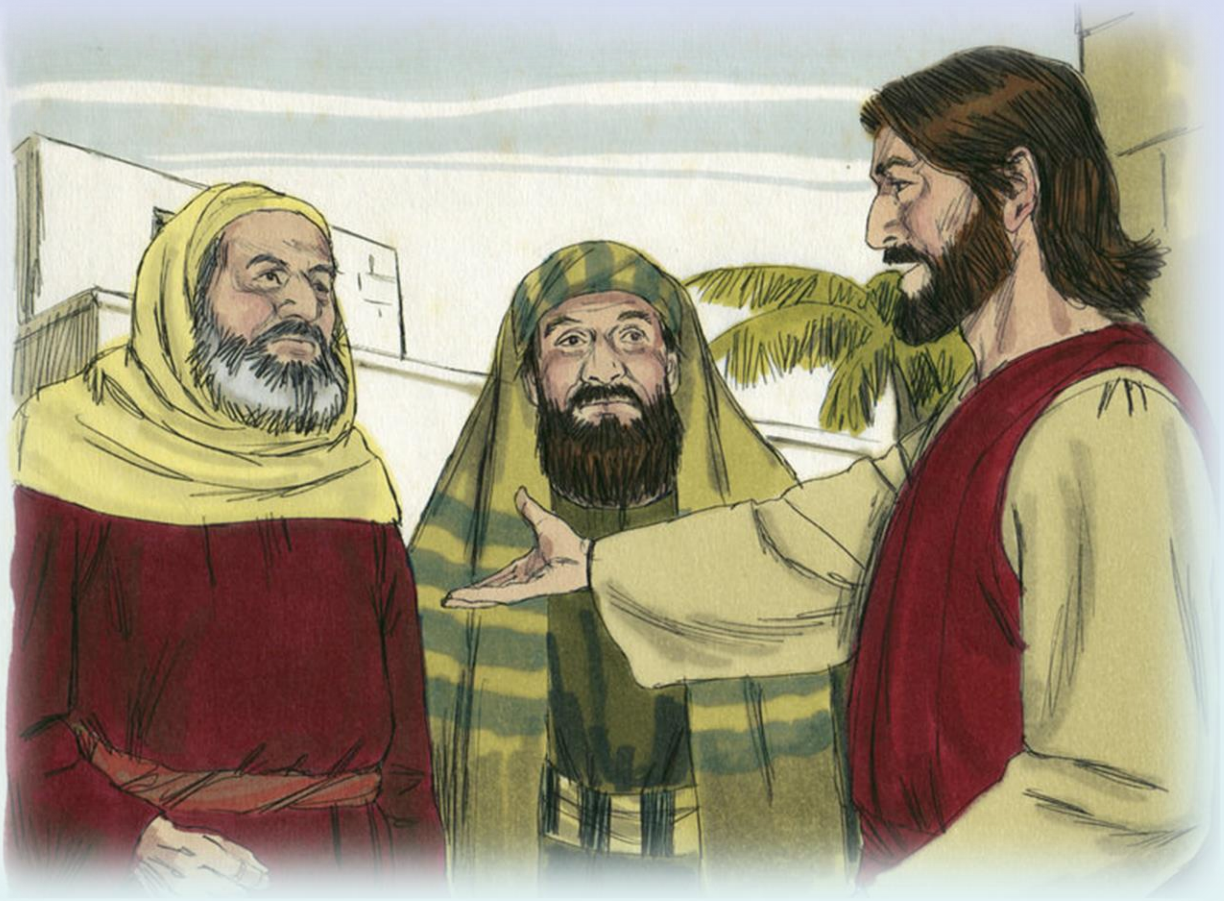
The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or a cheat, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all my income.'



But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!'



I tell you," said Jesus, "the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great."



Things to think about…

In this parable, Jesus presents two men who went up to the temple to pray. The first, a Pharisee, believed he was righteous because of his own deeds. He stood up and prayed, thanking God that he was not as sinful as other people.

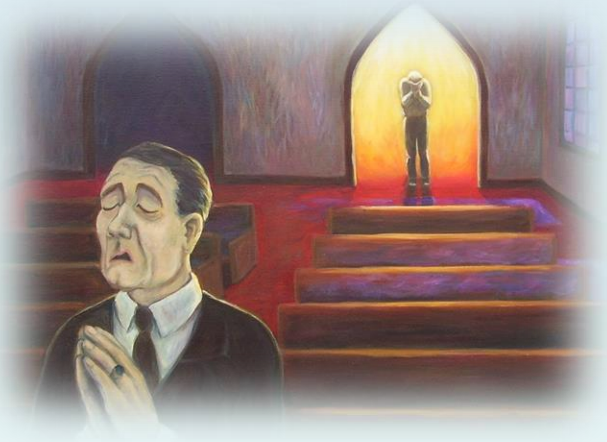
The second, a tax collector, humbly acknowledged his sin and asked God for mercy. Jesus explained that the tax collector — and not the Pharisee — went home happy and right with God.

God rejects the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). Pride, meaning thinking we are better than we really are. Someone with the attitude of the Pharisee sees no need for Jesus. The Tax collector knew he had no standing before God. He asked for mercy, and God was merciful to him.

God did not look at the Pharisee — and say, "That is really impressive." God sees us and loves us for who we really are; sinners in need of forgiveness. Jesus took the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross. We can come to God with nothing but empty hands of faith. We can cry out to God, like the tax collector, and because of Jesus, God will forgive us.

Questions

1. How would you describe the attitude of the Pharisee?
2. Who do you really think the Pharisee is trying to get to listen to him?
3. How would you describe the attitude of the Tax Collector?
4. Who do you think the tax collector wants his prayer to be heard by? Do you remember what his words were?
5. Who does Jesus say is right with God? Why?



LENT

Year 4 R.E.

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Lesson 2

L.O: to know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a special celebration of God's forgiveness.

To be able to identify from the rite the words and actions which speak of Reconciliation.



We are tempted to make wrong choices

Even when we try to make good choices, sometimes we are tempted. We are tempted to act in ways that hurt ourselves or other people. When we turn away from God's laws, we sin. Sin hurts our friendship with God.

Every time we sin, we hurt our friendship with God and with others. Jesus always loves us, even if we sin. Jesus looks into our hearts. He sees that we are good. If we do something wrong and we are sorry, Jesus forgives us. Jesus gives us another chance.



Jesus Forgives Our Sins

Jesus wants to forgive our sins. We come to Jesus for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, we confess our sins to a priest. He forgives us in Jesus' name. The grace we have lost is given back to us.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus comforts us. He strengthens us on our journey. We are reconciled with God, with the Church, and with the people we have hurt. Through this sacrament the Church celebrates Jesus' gift of forgiveness.

Conscience is a voice within each of us. It helps us to know what God wants us to do. It helps us know the difference between right and wrong. It helps us know the ways we have sinned. The Holy Spirit helps us to listen to and follow our conscience.
Before we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we prepare ourselves. We examine our conscience.

Going to receive The Sacrament of Reconciliation

After the examination of conscience, we are ready to go to be reconciled with Jesus.

1. At the beginning of the sacrament, the priest welcomes us, and we pray the Sign of the Cross. He invites us to trust in God who loves us.
2. We tell our sins to the priest.
3. The priest helps and advises us. Then he gives a penance. This may be a prayer to pray or a good deed to do. We do our penance to show that we want to make up for what we have done wrong and that we are ready to change our ways.
4. The priest asks us to tell God we are sorry. We do this by praying the Act of Contrition.
5. We receive absolution from the priest. He absolves us from our sins in Jesus' name. He says "I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
6. The priest says "Go in peace," and we answer "Amen."



The Act of Contrition is a prayer of forgiveness.

Can you remember the Act of Contrition?

Write a prayer, saying sorry for the wrong choices you have made or the things you have failed to do. Ask God to forgive you and thank Him for His love and mercy.

