

# Proper 19 – Year C

## What's Happening in Sunday School?

The big theme in today's readings is that of repentance and return to God. We can consider this a single theme precisely because repentance entails and demands return to God. Without the completion of repentance in the return to the creature's creator, repentance is not repentance at all. That is, if we do not turn away from sin and toward our creator, we have not turned from sin in the first place.

In the Gospel, we see this in the two parables of "lost things." The emphasis now shifts from the human impulse to repent to God's mercy in bringing the human being back. Note, for example, that it is neither the sheep nor the coin who desires to return to its owner, but rather the owner - a literary substitute for "creator" - who goes to seek after and return the lost. So, repentance, then, means first and foremost coming back to God, which return is predicated on the initial impulse (and this given by Grace) of the human to turn away from sin.

## Digging Deeper

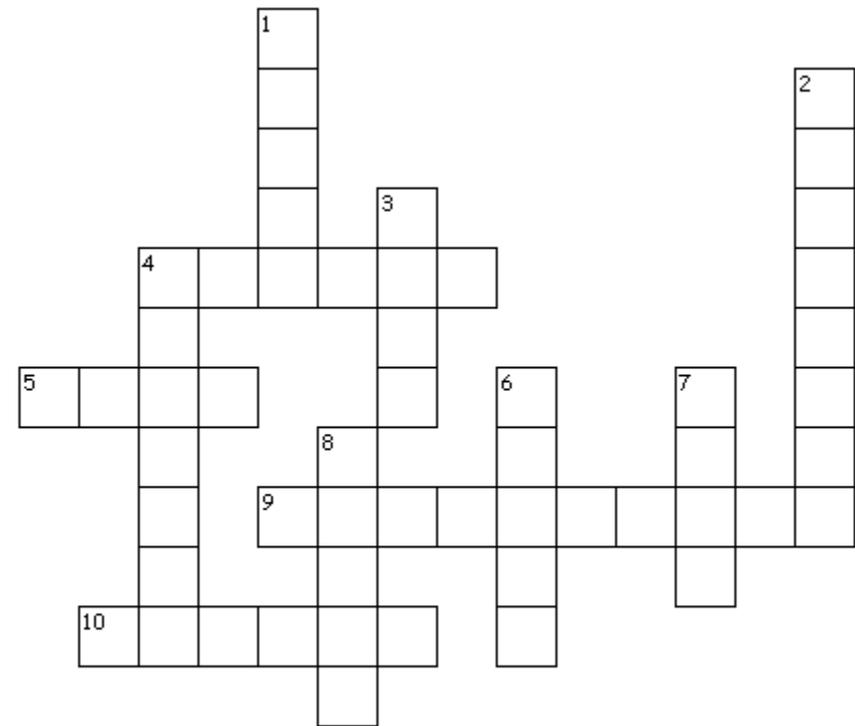
What two items were lost in the two parables of the Gospel reading?

In each parable something small was lost compared to what the person still had and yet they went to great lengths to find the one, small thing and expressed great joy in finding it. What does this tell us about how God feels about each one of us?

What does it mean to repent?

How do we know that God forgives us?

# Fun Page



Across

4. The woman and the shepherd were \_\_\_\_\_ when they found their lost things.
5. When we sin, we feel \_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is good for the soul.
10. To turn away from sin is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Down

1. God spares us from his justice by his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When we confess to God we know we are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We must \_\_\_\_\_ away from sin to be with God.
4. What God should give us.
6. The shepherd lost a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The woman lost a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Heaven rejoices when a lost soul is \_\_\_\_\_.