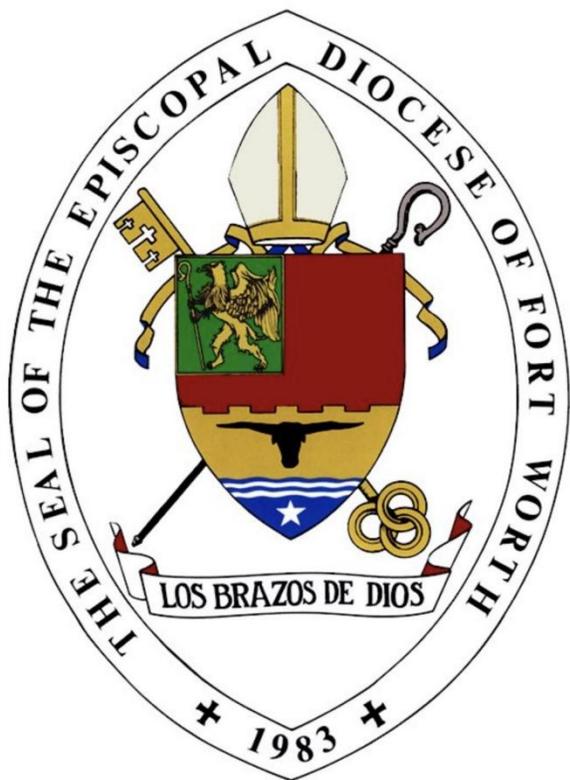


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**PROPER
25**

**Sunday from
October 23 to
October 29**

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Curriculum for Proper 25, Year C

Sunday from October 22 to October 29

Lectionary Texts:

Jeremiah 14: (1-6) 7-10, 19-22

Psalm 84

2 Timothy 4:6-18

Luke 18:9-14

Jeremiah 14: (1-6) 7-10, 19-22

War and Hunger

¹ A message came to me from the Lord. He told me there wouldn't be any rain in the land. He said,

² "Judah is filled with sadness.

Its cities are wasting away.

The people sob over the land.

Crying is heard in Jerusalem.

³ The nobles send their servants to get water.

They go to the wells.

But they do not find any water.

They return with empty jars.

They are terrified. They do not have any hope.

They cover their heads.

⁴ The ground is dry and cracked.

There isn't any rain in the land.

The farmers are terrified.

They cover their heads.

⁵ Even the does in the fields

desert their newborn fawns.

There isn't any grass to eat.

⁶ Wild donkeys stand on the bare hilltops.

They long for water as wild dogs do.

Their eyesight fails

because they do not have any grass to eat."

⁷ Our sins are a witness against us.

Lord, do something for the honor of your name.

We have completely turned away from you.

We've sinned against you.

⁸ You are Israel's only hope.

You save us when we're in trouble.

Why are you like a stranger to us?

Why are you like a traveler who stays for only one night?

⁹ Why are you like a man who is taken by surprise?

Why are you like a soldier who can't save anyone?

Lord, you are among us.

And we are your people.

Please don't desert us!

¹⁰ The Lord has given me a message about these people. He says,

"They really love to wander away from me.

Their feet go down the wrong path.

I do not accept these people.

I will remember the evil things they have done.

I will punish them for their sins."

¹⁹ Lord, have you turned your back on Judah completely?

Do you hate the city of Zion?

Why have you made us suffer?

We can't be healed.

We hoped peace would come.

But nothing good has happened to us.

We hoped we would finally be healed.

But all we got was terror.

²⁰ Lord, we admit we've done evil things.

We also admit that our people of long ago were guilty.

It's true that we've sinned against you.

²¹ For the honor of your name, don't turn your back on us.

Don't bring shame on your glorious throne in the temple.

Remember the covenant you made with us.

Please don't break it.

²² Do any of the worthless gods of the nations bring rain?

Do the skies send down showers all by themselves?

No. Lord our God, you send the rain.

So we put our hope in you.

You are the one who does all of those things.

Psalm 84:1-6

For the director of music. For *gittith*. A psalm of the Sons of Korah.

¹ Lord who rules over all,

how lovely is the place where you live!

² I long to be in the courtyards of the Lord's temple.

I deeply long to be there.

My whole being cries out

for the living God.

³ Lord who rules over all,

even the sparrow has found a home near your altar.

My King and my God,

the swallow also has a nest there,

where she may have her young.

⁴ Blessed are those who live in your house.

They are always praising you.

Selah

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength comes from you.

They have decided to travel to your temple.

⁶ As they pass through the dry Valley of Baca,

they make it a place where water flows.

The rain in the fall covers it with pools.

2 Timothy 4:6-18

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Personal Instructions

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia,^[B] Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ¹² Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him

according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 18:9-14

The Story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹ Jesus told a story to some people who were sure they were right with God. They looked down on everybody else. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee. The other was a tax collector.

¹¹ "The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself. 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people,' he said. 'I am not like robbers or those who do other evil things. I am not like those who commit adultery. I am not even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week. And I give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³ "But the tax collector stood not very far away. He would not even look up to heaven. He beat his chest and said, 'God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner.'

¹⁴ "I tell you, the tax collector went home accepted by God. But not the Pharisee. Everyone who lifts himself up will be brought down. And anyone who is brought down will be lifted up."

Overview of Texts:

Today's readings all reveal what it looks like when God's children long for Him and His holiness and righteousness, confessing their need for Him in all circumstances. Our realization of God as our supreme and only provision may come after toiling on our own. We repent and seek God for help, humbly calling upon Him for everything.

Recognizing his need for God, the tax collector knows he is a sinner, but the Pharisee is confident of his own righteousness. The contrast could not be greater. The tax collector asks for mercy. He knows his need for God and has faith in Him. He doesn't put his trust in his abilities and good works (like the Pharisee). He is aware that the only way he has access to God is through divine mercy. Such access is not earned, it is the product of God's grace.

When Jesus evaluates the two prayers, only one petitioner went home justified. The tax collector's prayer honored God and was heard, not that of the Pharisee. To drive the point home, Jesus concludes, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." The parable's point is summarized in this saying.

The tax collector has a humble heart. He is honored by God. Since this parable is an example story, the call is to be like the tax collector. Our worth as human beings is not based on what others think of us or what we have accomplished. Our worth is based on the fact that we are loved by Almighty God. God's undeserved favor, grace, is freely given and freely received with no strings attached.

Pre K- Kindergarten Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Pictures of God's creation and pictures of man's creations, construction paper, glue sticks.

Preparation: Write out examples of statements a child might hear from someone who is proud/bragging and someone who is humble, thinking of others with a thankful heart. Examples listed at the end of the lesson packet. Write "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.' James 4:6" across the bottom of each construction paper page.

Lesson:

- Read the Bible story of the Pharisee and the tax collector.
- Explain that a tax collector collects money from people to give to the government. In Jesus' time, tax collectors were often dishonest, taking more than was needed and keeping the extra for themselves. No one liked tax collectors, and they were considered bad people. Pharisees were proud religious men who were very showy in their religious practices. They were much more concerned with how they *looked* worshipping God than actually worshipping God. They were very judgmental of others and thought themselves better than everyone else.
- Discuss what it means to be humble vs. proud.
- Demonstrate how bowing is honoring others. We honor God when we bow our head as we go to Him for help.
- Read the examples you wrote of someone being humble vs. proud and see if they can recognize the difference in someone having faith in God vs. having faith in themselves.

Activity:

- Using the pictures you have previously gathered, have children find pictures of things God has created that humans cannot and glue them on their paper.
- Lead the children in prayer, asking God to forgive our sins and help us to turn to Him. Praise Him and thank Him for all his help and goodness towards us.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: A deflated balloon for each child and simple costumes (robes/cloaks) for tax collector, Pharisee, and Jesus.

Preparation: It's Halloween season, you may be able to find inexpensive costumes that are made for Biblical times or look for any costume kits that include a long, plain-colored "dress" shape that can be adapted to your needs.

To make simple Biblical costumes, buy/thrift/recycle inexpensive twin flat sheets that you can buy separately (cheapest and easiest), or twin sets (any color or pattern is fine and adds to the fun). If you plan well ahead, you can ask your congregation to bring any unwanted but clean sheets they'd like to donate. You may get larger sheet sizes, but they can always be trimmed. With a few sets of sheets, you can have costumes ready for the whole class to use for any dress up lessons or pageants in the future.

- Starting with a flat sheet, cut two 2-3" strips from the short edge (or if you have other fabric scraps that can be used as a belt, skip this step).
- Cut in half along the short axis (this will yield two costumes)
- Fold each piece along its short axis and cut a T-shaped opening in the middle of the fold – a slit along the fold, and a short, perpendicular cut at the center of the slit down ONE side (this is the hole for the head, and the cut should be smaller than you think it should be, and you can easily widen it later if the hole turns out to be too small).
- Put the tunic on over the head of the child like a poncho with the bottom edges of the sheet parallel with the floor (not corners pointing at the floor) and tie a strip of fabric around the waist for a belt while the child has their arms stretched out side to side (otherwise, the tunic will restrict their arm movements once the belt is tied on).
- The length of the tunic can be adjusted for shorter children by how much you pull the fabric up to blouse over belt.
- For very small children, tunics can be made from pillowcases, but you'll need to either cut the long sides all the way or cut arm holes near the closed end.
- If you'd like to include a headdress, a pillowcase can be cut into two pieces. Place the short edge at the forehead along the brow and wrap that edge back over the ears and to the back. Hold in place while positioning the long edges to hang over the ears. Tie a strip of fabric around the head at the brow with the knot at the back or use a stretchy fabric headband.
- If buying sheets in a set, the fitted sheet can be used in the same way as the flat sheet once you've trimmed off the elastic.

- You don't have to be very neat in how you cut the sheets and pillowcases (especially if trimming elastic from a fitted sheet). A rough edge looks more rugged and lived in than a clean cut or hemmed edge!

Lesson:

- Read the Gospel story and 2 Timothy, noting who is given glory to for the result in fighting the good fight.
- Discuss definitions of "humble" and "proud": See the last page of this lesson packet for a worksheet on proud vs. humble.
- Discuss how bowing was a symbol of humility, just like we bow our heads when we pray to God, recognizing our need for Him. Have everyone get down and bow before one another to see what it feels like. First bow their heads, then at the waist, then get down on one knee, then two knees, then face down. Scripture talks about being face down. We see an example of this today in the ordination of a priest who lays prostrate, flat on the floor faced down in humility.
- Discuss ways we can show genuine humility to one another, not just politeness.
- Discuss ways God can use us when our hearts are humble.

Activity:

- Give each child a balloon and discuss how it can be stretched and wrapped around things, pulled over things, and put inside things because it is small and flexible. Then, have the students blow up the balloons and discuss how being blown up (puffed up), it is no longer flexible, can only be one shape, and can only be used for certain things. When it was deflated, we could do more with it.
- A puffed-up person (like the Pharisee) is not as useful to God as a flexible, pliable, humble person is. Humility makes our hearts ready for God to use us in ways that he wants to for his Kingdom.
- Play a "Humble vs. Proud" game, giving examples of each: ex. "I am thankful for God sending my friend to help me today." Or "I did five good deeds today."
- Let the children act out the Pharisee, the Tax Collector, and Jesus in the story.
- Have the children blow up the balloons again and write this verse on them: "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6
- Lead students in prayer, asking for forgiveness for our sins and help in turning away from sin to God. Then praise Him for all of his help and goodness towards us.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Junior & Senior High Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and Hail Mary

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: balloons for each student, markers

Preparation: Be thinking of examples of humility vs. arrogance/pride.

Lesson:

- Discuss the meanings of humility and self-righteousness.
- Read the Gospel.
- Give examples and ask the students for examples in their everyday lives. Discourage negative talk about specific people and have them avoid using anyone's name. It's better to speak in generalities here than to engage in judging any particular person. "You see people on social media who..." "Sometimes kids at school..."
- Ask them to think of things they have heard that demonstrate arrogance/pride and humility; or actions that demonstrate these traits.
- Discuss how respecting those whom God has put in authority in our lives (parents, teachers, public servants, etc.) requires humility and taking responsibility for our own actions vs. making excuses.
- Discuss ways that youth their age can be self-righteous, proud, or showy. Are the people they are thinking of Christians or not? It is likely that some will be.
- Discuss how we can act like the Pharisee if we take too much pride in how we exercise our faith or judge too harshly the way others do (or don't).
- Discuss examples of children they know who are humble and kind, who acknowledge their weaknesses and try hard to overcome them. Here, speaking in admiration of a specific person or by name would be fine. The Tax Collector knew he was a sinner. He came to God humbly. He asked forgiveness. He wanted to do better, to be better.
- Discuss how each of us needs to be humble and examine ourselves often for help with our faults and weaknesses, our sins. We are never too bad off to return to God for help. The Tax Collector shows us the way.
- Discuss ways that we can fool ourselves into thinking that our prideful behavior (especially about our faith) is appropriate. Sometimes we get a little too comfortable and self-satisfied with our own level of holiness. We become complacent, even self-righteous about where we are at. It takes an intentional effort in humility to examine ourselves daily to see where we fall short, to acknowledge and confess it, then with God's help try to do better.

Activity:

- Contrast a deflated balloon and an inflated balloon using the humility vs. puffed up/proud theme. I.e. deflated balloon is pliable, can stretch it, wrap it around things, pull it over things, put it in something because it is small, and make it do what you want.
- Give each student a balloon and have them blow it up.
- Discuss how the balloon is less useful now that it is puffed up; it doesn't have as many functions. Compare this to how we are with God. If we are full of ourselves, we are rigid and less pliable for God to use as He wishes. When we are humble (not puffed up), we are flexible and able to accept God's will and be used by Him.
- Read the 2 Timothy lesson, noting who Timothy gives glory to for his help in fighting the good fight.
- Lead students in prayer, asking for forgiveness for our sins and help in turning away from sin to God and praise and thank Him for all of His help.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Humility vs. Pride

1. Jimmy came running home from school. He got an "A+" on today's quiz. He thanked his mom for encouraging him to study the night before.

Was Jimmy boastful or humble? _____



2. Tammy looked around at the other girls in her classroom. None of them had as nice a dress as she did. She couldn't wait for someone to notice, so she told everyone how pretty her dress was.

Was Tammy boastful or humble? _____



3. Carl knew his parents were wealthy. He always got a large allowance. But all his friends said Carl didn't act rich, instead he was very generous.

Was Carl boastful or humble? _____

4. Liz was doing great in school, was captain of her soccer team, and had many friends. She didn't need to worry about Jesus right now in her life.

Was Liz boastful or humble? _____



5. As James entered his friend's house, he noticed how old and worn everything looked. He laughed and said, "Our furniture looks much nicer than yours."

Was James boastful or humble? _____

6. Justin saw the mess his younger sister made. There was mud all over the floor. He knew his mom would clean it up, but he decided to do it himself before she noticed.

Was Justin boastful or humble? _____

