What's Happening in Sunday School?

The theme for today's lessons is repentance. More specifically, it describes an individual's opportunity and responsibility to acknowledge their sins, turn away from their wrong choices and turn to God and His never failing mercy. The prophet Ezekiel reminds the people of Israel that they are misunderstanding God's plan and making excuses. They pass the blame for their sinfulness to another person's actions. They complain that God is just "not fair." Ezekiel explains that God is not interested in what someone else did. Each person must make their own choices. God will forgive every person who turns to Him and give every person a new heart and a new spirit. In fact, this is just what He wants them to do. This call is even stronger in Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul reminds us that Jesus has already taken the punishment for our sins. Paul encourages us to understand how much God has already done for us, to clear the way for us to turn towards Him. With the parable of the two sons Jesus explains what we must do. Once again, it is clear that making excuses or saying what the father wants to hear is not what accomplishes the father's will. The son who does what the father asks is the one who pleases the father. Appearances are not enough. Each person must make their own choice and do what the Father wants. They are responsible for turning away from sin and selfishness and accepting God's redeeming love.

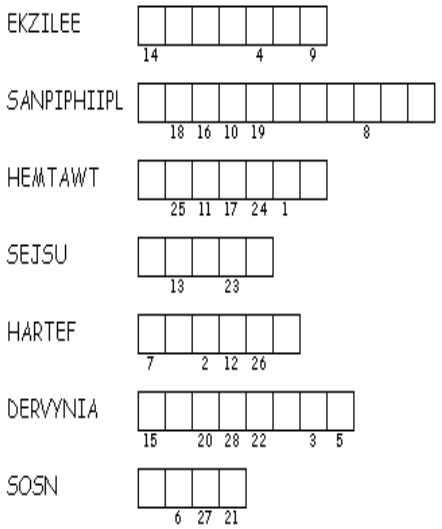
Digging Deeper

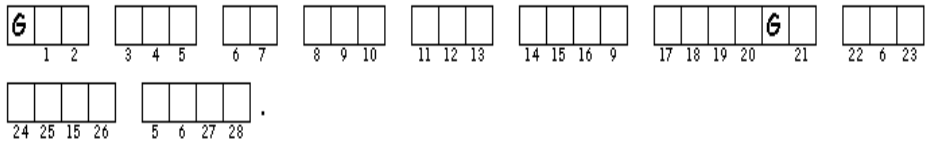
- Name another parable that involves two sons.
- What is a parable?
- How many parables did Jesus tell over the course of the four gospels?

Proper 21 – Year A FUN PAGE

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

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Ezekial, Philippians, Matthew, Jesus, Father, Vineyard, Sons
"Get rid of all the evil things you have done."