

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 25**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**

**Scripture: Luke 18:9-14**

In the final 6 weeks of this Lectionary Year C, a firm and hopeful tone soars in Jesus' teachings in a rich symphony of themes. The background music of the Hebrew Scriptures holds the notes of the new covenant — a law written in our hearts rather than codified in legal structures — The Spirit poured out, a vision for the appointed time, God with us, a new heaven and a new earth, and a branch from the tree of David — the remnant gathered. We can believe that Jesus heard this cosmic music as he distilled his huge message to the disciples.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

The promise echoing through the centuries, "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh," rings in Jesus' ears as he tells the disciples a story about the risk in assuming we "have it right."

**Theme: Aligning our Hearts with our Behavior**

**Before:** You will need paper and crayons.

**Beginning:** Ask the children to show you, using their bodies and their faces what someone who is really sorry for something bad he has done would look like.

**Praying:** Loving God, thank you for all you have given us and all you have done for us. Help us to remember to say thank you to show our love of you. Amen.

**Story:** Jesus had a story for his friends. There were two men in Jesus' story. The first man thought he was very important. This man went around with his nose stuck up in the air acting very proud of himself. When he prayed to God, he made sure everyone could hear him and he would pray like this: "I am glad I am not like other people who are not as wonderful as I am!" he would say. "I do all the stuff I am supposed to do and I give money to my church. I am a very perfect person."

The other man in Jesus' story knew he had done some bad stuff and he was really, really sorry. When this man prayed to God, he said, "I am so sorry. I really blew it. I am so very sorry, please forgive me." Jesus told his friends these stories to remind them that people who are able to say sorry and humble themselves in front of God are better than those who only praise themselves.

**Activity: Movement activity.** Tell the children we are going to pretend to be these two men. First we will be the one who was so sure of himself. What would that look like? Maybe we would have our noses stuck up in the air and our mouths turned down. When we walked around we would pay no attention to anyone else because we would be only thinking about ourselves.

Now, let's be the man who was so sorry about what he had done. What would that look like? With our heads down, we would walk very slowly. Maybe we would be saying, "I'm so sorry."

Now let's show how the sorry man would look after God tells him he is loved by God, the bad stuff he has done is all over, and he is forgiven. How would our faces look? How would our bodies act? Let's do a dance to show we are happy.

**Activity:** Invite the children to draw the person who is really sorry and is praying to God and knows that God hears and that God says all is OK. We will also need a drawing to put on our cross. There is a simple template below if you choose to use this for the coloring project or just for the one that you put on the cross.

**Getting Closure:** Gather the children in a circle. Tell the child next to you, "God forgives you. God loves you." Then ask that child to tell the person next to her what you just said, and you can say it along with the child. That child turns to the child next to him and joins in with you and the child. Keep going until each child has heard the message, and the last child has said it to you.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, that you forgive us when we tell you we are sorry. Thank you for your love and help. Amen.

*Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

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God loves you.