

Special Lesson - Great Lent

Lesson 5. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector: Humble Yourself in Prayer

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Scripture Reference: Luke 18:9-14

*Use children's Bible story book if applicable. Feel free to ask one of the older students to read it or tell it as a story.

Classroom Activity: Prayer Corner

What to do: Make a prayer corner in your classroom with icons and electric candles.

Optional: Create prayer cards to have ready for those who need to say a prayer.

* If such corner already exists in your classroom, encourage a group prayer or individual prayers upon need.

Class Activity 1: Fill in the words to complete the sentence.

Coloring Activity: Prayerful Children.

Items Needed: Printouts of the page (found on the third page), pencils, pens or markers.

Optional Activity: Jesus Prayer Flower Fold (found on the fourth page)

*Can be used as homework or supplemental activity in the classroom.

Song: [Standin' in the Need of Prayer](#) (duration 2:24)

Words of the week:

Աստուած – Asd-vadz - God

քաւեա – kav-ya – forgive

մեղաւոր – megh-a-vor – sinner

Moral Character Focus:

Humility

Memory Verse:

**God, have mercy on me,
a sinner!**

Luke 18:13

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

Open with prayer:

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Boddy:

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent and it is called the Sunday of the Judge. During this Sunday we remember a parable, where Jesus talked about a Pharisee and a tax collector. The Pharisee is a teacher, who knows very well about God's commandments, and he followed God's Law. He always went to the temple to pray. There were others praying at the temple too. The Pharisee went to the front of the temple where everyone could see him. He prayed loudly and proudly. *"God, I thank you that I am not like the other people who are greedy, dishonest, do not act fairly, and are not faithful to you, just like that tax-collector. I always fast and give part of what I have to the poor, and I am always obedient to you."* As the Pharisee was praying this, on the other side of the temple, in a corner, the tax collector began to pray. He lowered his eyes as he was too ashamed to even look up to heaven. Instead, he pounded his chest, saying, *"God, have mercy on me, I am a sinner!"*

Jesus explained that the prayer of the tax collector pleased the Lord because he humbled himself and admitted his mistakes. God appreciated that and forgave him. The actions and prayer of the Pharisee were very displeasing to God because the Pharisee was proud and put himself above everyone else, therefore he was not forgiven. In his prayer the Pharisee was making known to all the good things he had done, showing off, as if making a deal with God.

Prayer must be an important part of our lives. We must pray to God not to show all the good we have done, but to ask Him to make us and our loved ones better.

Sometimes during a busy day, we feel the need to pray to God. We might think that we don't have enough time, or we are not in a good place to say a prayer. Our prayers don't have to be long. There is a short prayer we all can learn and pray daily, as many times as we want. It is called Jesus Prayer.

Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Memory Verse:

**God, have mercy on me,
a sinner!**

Luke 18:13

Words of the Week:

Աստուած – Asdvadz - God
քարեա – kavya – forgive
մեղաւոր – meghavor – sinner

Song: [Standin' in the Need of Prayer](#) (duration 2:24)

Classroom Activity (optional): Prayer Corner

What to do: Make a prayer corner in your classroom with icons, a Bible, and electric candles.

Additional: Create prayer cards to have ready for those who need to say a prayer.

Class Activity: Fill in the words to complete the sentence.

* Do this activity with your teacher as a class, using the white board or a poster board.

forgive

admit

mistakes

Jesus teaches me to _____ my _____
and ask God to _____ me.

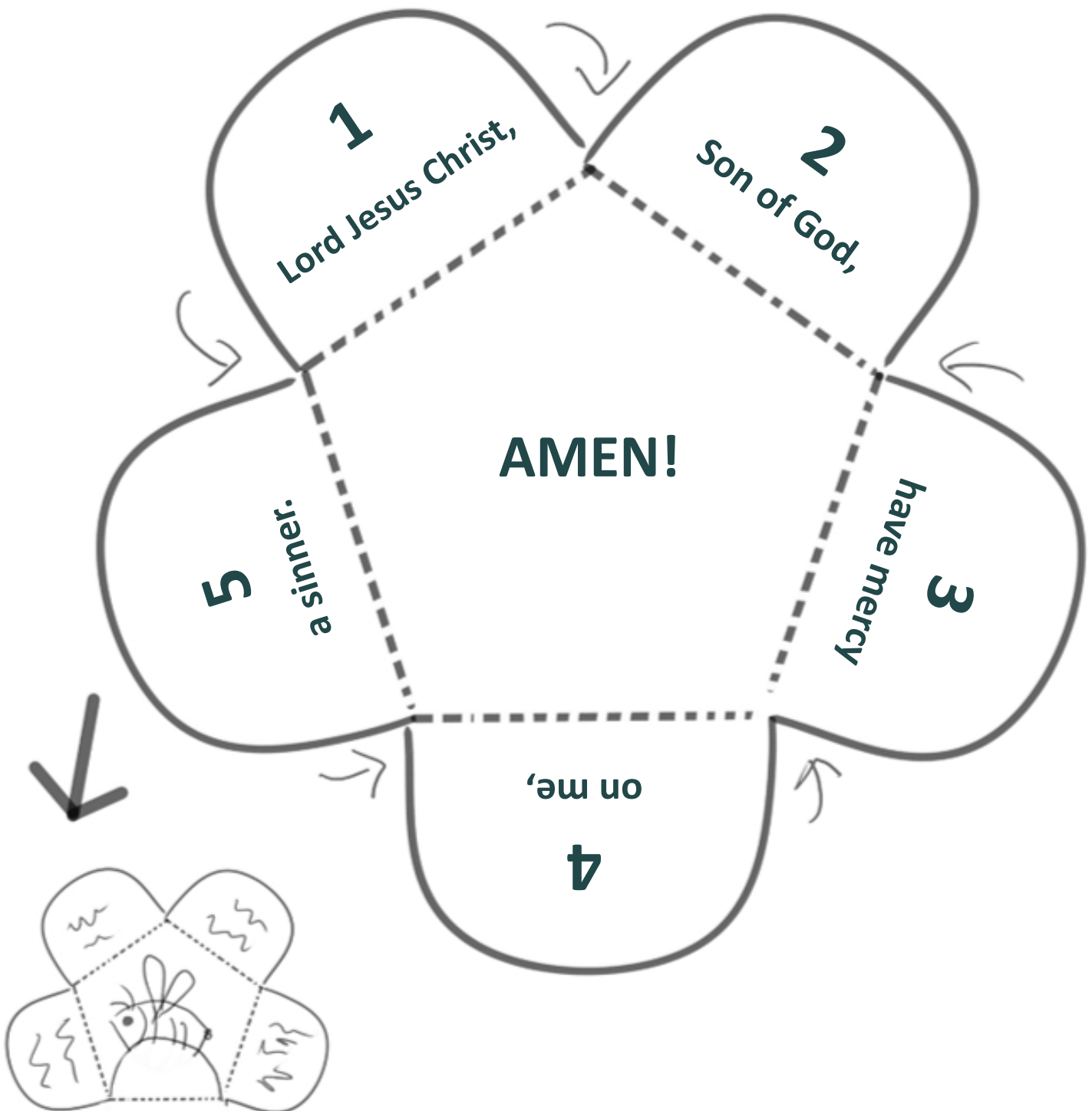
Coloring Activity: Prayerful Children



Jesus Prayer Flower Fold

Color the flower as colorful as you wish and cut it out.
When you pray, fold each petal with the word you have said.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.



Review

Memory Verse Review:

God, have mercy on me, a sinner! (Luke 18:13)

Lesson Review:

1. Where did the Pharisee and tax collector go to pray? (The temple)
2. How did the Pharisee pray? (He prayed arrogantly and proudly, thinking he was the best)
3. How did the tax collector pray? (With humility and knowing he was at fault)
4. Why did God accept the tax collector's prayer and not the Pharisee's? (Because the Pharisee was showing off how good he was, comparing himself with others while the tax collector regretted what he had done and asked for forgiveness)

Words of the Week:

Աստուած – Asdvadz - God

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Life Application:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Close with prayer:

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.