

TOTALLY LENT!



A KID'S
JOURNEY TO
EASTER 2023

For Intermediate Grades



Today's Gospel + Matthew 9:14-15

John's disciples asked Jesus, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus explained: "The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they?" (9:14-15)

Jesus knew he was like the groom at a wedding feast. His followers were like the guests. At a wedding, people eat, drink, and have a good time. They don't fast.

But Jesus also knew that one day he would be killed. On that day, his disciples would be too sad to eat or drink. On that day, they would fast. During Lent we think about how Jesus died to save us from sin and death, and we feel sad. We express sorrow for our sins.

Can you find these 12 sins in this Word Search?

CURSE

TALK BACK

STEAL

HURT

SKIP MASS

DISOBEY

BRAG

FIGHT

ENVY

LIE

CHEAT

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | M | C | H | E | A | T | K | P |
| V | S | K | E | R | Y | C | N | D |
| E | K | Q | I | H | A | V | I | C |
| S | I | B | L | B | U | S | N | T |
| R | P | U | K | B | O | R | N | E |
| U | M | L | M | B | W | R | T | N |
| C | A | L | E | V | G | A | R | B |
| T | S | Y | T | H | G | I | F | L |
| Q | S | L | S | T | E | A | L | N |

THE STORY OF LAZARUS AND THE RICH MAN

Now read again the story of Lazarus and the rich man on page 23.
What do you think was the point Jesus was making in this story?

From these possible answers, all except one are correct.

Cross out the incorrect one.

- A** There really is a Heaven and a Hell.
- B** The “haves” must share with the “have-nots.”
- C** Some people would never believe in him,
even if he rose from the dead.
- D** Being rich is wrong.
- E** God has a special love for the poor.

Your Turn!

Create a story from these suggested characters and scene.

CHARACTERS: *fifth-grade soccer team, two first-graders*

SCENE: *the practice field*

The Story of _____

What's your point? _____

Today's Gospel + Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this story. "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' " (18:10-13)

Only one man's prayer pleased God that day. It was not the prayer of the Pharisee, who boasted of being better than others. It was the prayer of the tax collector, who prayed with a humble heart.

1 What are some things that might make a kid think he or she is better than other kids? **Circle them.**

NICE CLOTHES**GOOD GRADES****DEEP FAITH****MONEY****POPULARITY****KARATE SKILLS****COOL BIKE****BIG HOUSE****KINDNESS****NICE HAIR****NEWEST SMARTPHONE****ATHLETIC ABILITY****HUMILITY****GOOD LOOKS****LATEST VIDEO GAMES**

2 Now underline what really matters.

3 Keeping in mind what really matters, write your own prayer to God.

Today's Gospel + Matthew 26:14-25

Jesus said to the twelve, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." One by one each asked, "Surely not I, Lord?" When Judas asked the question, Jesus replied, "You have said so" (26:20-22, 25).

Think of all that Jesus has done for you so that you might know and feel his love. Think of how you might return his friendship.

Inside this crown of thorns, draw a few symbols of Jesus' love for you, such as a cross, three nails, grapes, wheat, or a fiery heart.

Then slowly pray the Act of Love below.



My God, I love you above all things,
with my whole heart and soul,
because you are all good and worthy of all love.
I love my neighbor as myself for love of you.
I forgive all who have injured me
and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

He is risen! Alleluia!

Easter is here and the mood in church has changed dramatically. We've moved from purple to white vestments. We sing out Alleluias with gusto. Churches are filled with beautiful Easter lilies, colorful banners, and other signs of celebration.

After all, this is the greatest feast of the year for Christians. If Jesus had not suffered, died, and risen, there would be no Christians anywhere. No one would have believed he was the Son of God.

Read John 20:19-31. This is the Gospel for the first Sunday after Easter. It tells the story of the first time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he had risen from the dead. Can you imagine an experience like that?

Write what you think your reaction would have been.

What would you have said to Jesus?
