

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT



This week's lesson has two parts. You can do each one on a different day.

Prayer: “O Lord my God, enlighten my mind with the light of understanding Thy Word, and teach me to do Thy will.

Lesson 1:

Parent explains: The second Sunday of Lent honors St. Gregory Palamas. He became a monk at a young age and later become Archbishop of Thessalonica. St. Gregory taught that everyone can draw nearer to God through stillness and prayer. If we are always busy and noisy we cannot hear God. Listen to a story that helps us understand stillness a little better.

There once was a farmer who discovered that he had lost his watch in the barn. It was no ordinary watch, it was very special to him because it had belonged to his grandfather.

After searching high and low among the hay for a long time he heard a group of children playing in the field. He asked them to help him find his watch. He promised a reward for the person who found it.

Hearing this, the children hurried inside the barn and ran all around searching through all the hay, but they could not find the watch.

Just as the farmer was about to give up looking for his watch, a little boy went up to him and asked him if he could look for the watch.

So the farmer sent the little boy into the barn. After a little while the boy came out with the watch in his hand! The farmer was both happy and surprised, so he asked the boy how was he able to find the watch and everyone else had failed.

The boy replied, “I did nothing but sit on the ground and listen. In the silence, I heard the ticking of the watch and just looked for it in that direction.”

When we take time to be still and quiet it is easier to hear God and we are able to find Him and know that He is there with us. During lent try and take a little time each day to be still and quiet. A short prayer that is often used to help us think about God is called the Jesus Prayer, you can say it to help you think about God. It goes like this:

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

Activity: Pick up the book mark craft in church. It has a picture of St. Gregory on the front and the Jesus Prayer on the back.

Lesson 2:

Parent explains: The Gospel read on the Second Sunday of Lent is from the Gospel of Mark. **Parent or older child may read aloud Mark 12:1-12.**

Discussion: Allow children to give their responses after each question.

Today's Gospel story is about a man who was paralyzed. **What does it mean to be paralyzed? (To be unable to move your arms or legs)** Think for a minute how hard it would be to do things if you could not walk.

Jesus had been going from town to town teaching and performing miracles. So when the friends of the paralyzed man heard that Jesus was staying at a house in their town they wanted to help their friend see Jesus. So they put him on a mat and carried him to the house.

But everyone wanted to see Jesus. So many people had come that there was no room left, not even outside the door. **So what did his friends do? (Carried the man up to the roof and made a hole in it to lower him down to Jesus)**

Now you might be thinking how in the world could these friends have gotten that man up on a roof. Well, houses were built differently back then. Most houses had a stairs outside to get to a flat roof that people would use for extra living space.

The friends of the paralyzed man worked very hard to make a hole in the roof so they could lower their friend down to Jesus, because they were sure Jesus would be able to heal him.

Imagine being in that house and listening carefully to Jesus when all of a sudden you hear noise coming from above you and the ceiling is crumbling. Everyone stopped and looked up to see what was happening.

The first thing Jesus said when He saw that they believed was, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” This was probably not what the man expected since he came to Jesus because he wanted to walk. However, Jesus knew that being paralyzed was hard, but it was even worse not to be forgiven.

Well, some of the teachers of the law heard Jesus forgive the man. **What did they think and say? (How dare this man forgive sins, only God can do that.)**

Jesus knew what they were thinking. **What did he ask them? (Which is easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven”, or to say “Get up, take your mat and walk”?)**

And then he healed the paralyzed man.

Jesus was trying to help the teachers of the law see that He was the Son of God. Only God has the power to forgive sins and heal people.

Activity: Paralytic Man Easy Maze

Which path should the men take to bring their friend to Jesus?

