

We are all sinners

30th Sunday
Year C



Prayer Sign of the Cross. Let's praise. (See p. 170.)

quietly by yourselves



What does boasting mean?
How do people behave when they are boasting?
What do you think is the opposite to boasting?
How do people behave when they are not boasting?



when each child has had time to think

Share your answers.
How do you feel about people who boast?
Are they always as good as they say?



Jesus told a story about two men who went to the temple to stand and praise God. Listen carefully. Be ready to decide.
Who do you think really praised God?

welcome the Gospel. Sing Alleluia. (See p. 220)



all stand (adapted from Luke 18:9-14)

Jesus said, "Two men went to church to pray.
One man was an important leader.
The other man collected money for the government and he often cheated people asking for more money than he should.
When they arrived the important man stood up proudly and said, "Thank you God that I am a good man and not like everyone else, especially that man over there who cheats. I do so many good things."
The man who collected money for the government was far away from the important man.
He was saying his prayers too but he hung his head in shame, "God I'm sorry please forgive me," was his prayer.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.



all sit (some suggestions)

Who do you think pleased God?
We need to remember that we are all sinners and not be so quick to find fault in others.
It may be that you can do amazing things at your Halloween celebrations this week (or whenever) but why not stand back and let others show you just how clever they can be.
Remember to praise them and to thank everyone. (Recall the Gospel two weeks ago). In our excitement we may forget.

HAVE MERCY ON ME, JESUS

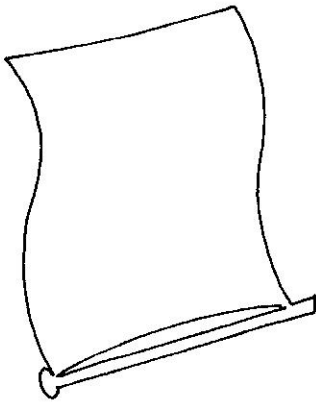
VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of two very different men.
- > Flag shape cut-outs.

SHARING

Show the children the pictures of the two men, and encourage them to make up stories as to who they are, what their work might be, etc.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us a story about two men, who are very different.



WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

Alleluia, alleluia!
God, through Jesus,
grants mercy to all.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Good News given to us by Luke.
Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus met some people who prided themselves on being good, so he told them this story.

Once, there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray. One man was important, a Pharisee. The other man was a tax collector, and no one trusted him.

The Pharisee began his prayer this way,
"Lord, I thank you that I am not like the rest of men. I thank you that I am not like this greedy tax collector. Thank you, God, I do everything I should, and much more."

The tax collector stood at the back, and didn't even dare lift his eyes to heaven. This is how he prayed.
"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Whose prayer do you think God listened to?

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

Who are the two men in the story?
- a Pharisee and a tax collector.
Explain, as necessary, that the Pharisees prided themselves on keeping the law as exactly as possible.
The tax collector was collecting the taxes on behalf of a foreign power - the Romans.
How did the Pharisee pray?
- boastfully.

How did the tax collector pray?
- humbly.
The Pharisee thought he did not need God's help; the tax collector knew he needed God's help.
Are the children ever boastful? If so, what about?
The only thing we should ever boast about is Jesus:
- that Jesus is the greatest; Jesus is my best friend; etc.

ACTIVITIES

- > Have the children act out the story, if possible adding modern day examples.
- > Have the children sit quietly, and to pray like the tax collector, asking God to forgive them for being boastful.
- > Give out the flag shape cut-outs.
- > On them have the children write or draw what they want to boast

about in Jesus, e.g. 'Jesus is the greatest'.
> Recite this prayer together:
We rejoice at the victory of God. We make our boast in his great name. We boast of his goodness. We boast of his love. We boast of his justice and mercy.