Opening Prayer:

+God be merciful to me a sinner.
+God cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
+I have sinned without number, forgive me O Lord"
We prayed this last week as well. Praying it again will reinforce the teaching of this prayer. Like the Prodigal Son and the Publican from last week's Gospel, we always need to approach our Father with a humble heart, asking for forgiveness. This is a theme that is building as we get closer to the Great Fast (Lent).

Gospel: <u>Luke 15:11-32</u> - Click to follow link. A template for stick puppets has been included as well as a script. You can tell the story in a puppet play. Or see: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uR3sFOfGDAg</u>

Lesson: When we do wrong and we say we are sorry, God will always forgive us.

What are some of the things that happen in the story?

- 1. The boy decides he doesn't need his dad
- 2. The boy makes mistakes and loses all of his things
- 3. The boys says "I was wrong "and goes back to his dad to say sorry
- 4. The boy is surprised because the dad loves him no matter what.

Let's remember that we ALL do things that are wrong - adults, kids, even people who are really old. When we do this, we turn away from God just like the prodigal son who left his dad. The Holy Spirit works inside us to remind us that we have done wrong. Then we feel like we should turn back to God and say sorry. When this happened we can pray the prayer that we said at the beginning of class. God will always be happy to open His arms wide and say "I forgive you! I am so happy to see you! I have been waiting for you to say you are sorry. I will always love you!"

Craft: Colour the Prodigal Son Icon

Talk about the beautiful hug that we see in the icon and imagine the beautiful hug that God gives us each time we say sorry and tell him that we need Him and love Him.

In Church: Like last week, listen for the prayer before Holy Communion. Pray it with everyone and practice making the sign of the cross three times as you pray.

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