

Third Sunday of Lent *Mar. 7, 2010*

Gospel Quote:

Sir, leave it another year while I hoe around it and fertilize it; then perhaps it will bear fruit. Lk. 13

Parables

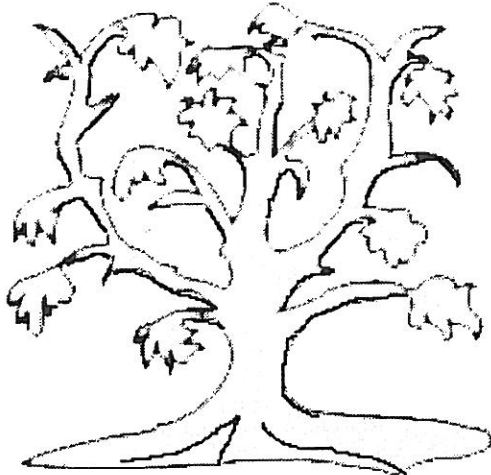
Jesus often used parables when He taught the people. The Gospel today is sometimes referred to as the Parable of the Fig Tree.

Parables are short stories that make a moral or religious point by using a comparison with something in nature or something familiar to the learners.

The word "parable" is taken from the Greek word "parabola," which refers to a comparison made by placing things side by side.

Suggestions:

- What lesson do you think the Parable of the Fig Tree teaches?
- Read the first two readings again. Write a simple statement of their message.
- Remember your Lenten resolution.



Fourth Sunday of Lent *Mar. 14, 2010*

Gospel Quote:

Father, I have sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son. Lk. 15

Different Names for the Same Story

Today's Gospel story is identified by several names. Take each title listed below and discuss how it fits the story and what aspects of the story are highlighted by the title. How do you think some of these titles were chosen?

- The Parable of the Prodigal Son
- The Son Who Was Sorry
- The Lost Son
- The Loving Father
- The Forgiving Father
- A Father and His Two Sons
- The Ungrateful Son
- The Son Who Repented
- The Story of God's Forgiveness
- The Generous Father

Suggestion:

- *The Prodigal Son*, a simple puppet story using easy-to-make puppets, can be found in the JP II Master Set, *Part-Taking in the Gospels, Lent and Holy Week*. The script is based on today's Gospel.
- Discuss loving and forgiving as they are seen in the Gospel story.
- Review Reconciliation.