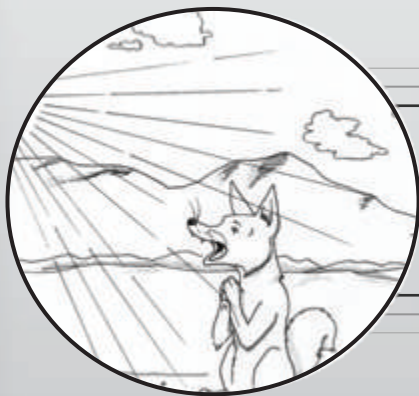




PK-K

Spirit & Truth

*Teaching Kids
the Heart of Worship*



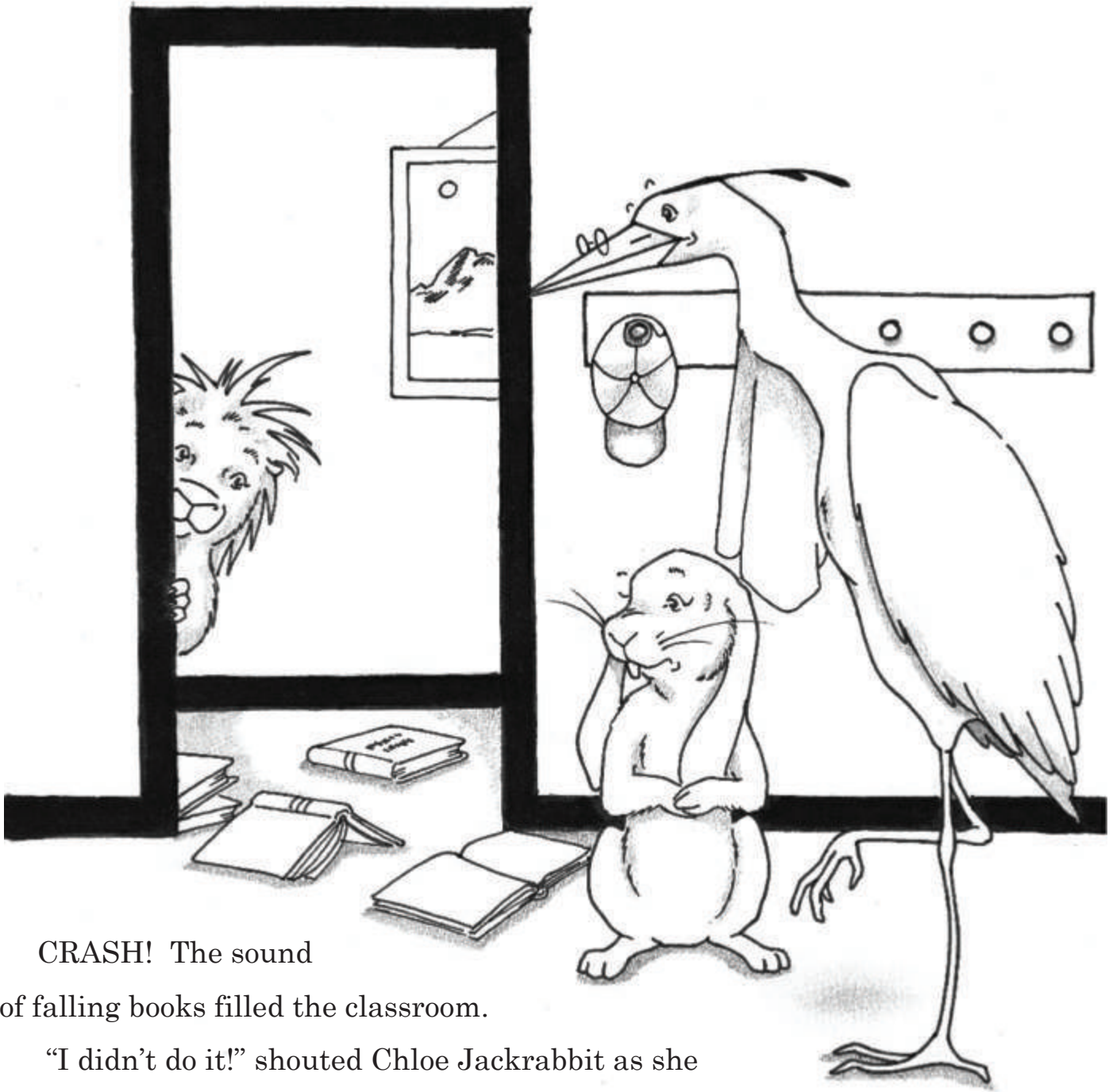
*Confessing
Coyotes!*

Picture Book

Lesson #L2:
Confession

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Illustrated by: Jennifer Morris*

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CRASH! The sound of falling books filled the classroom.

“I didn’t do it!” shouted Chloe Jackrabbit as she hopped into the classroom. “Sorry!” she said bumping into Mrs. Heron.

“What happened?” asked the teacher, pointing her wing at the door.

Chloe fiddled with her long ear. “A wind knocked over a stack of books in the hallway.”

“Really?” asked Josh Grayfox. “That must’ve been some wind.”

Chloe glared at him.

“Hey,” said Olivia Porcupine, “the pastor talked a lot about sin in church. What does that mean?”

“Have you ever made a bad choice or done something wrong?” asked Mrs. Heron.

The kids stared down at their paws. Chloe nodded slowly, playing with her other ear. The others nodded, too.

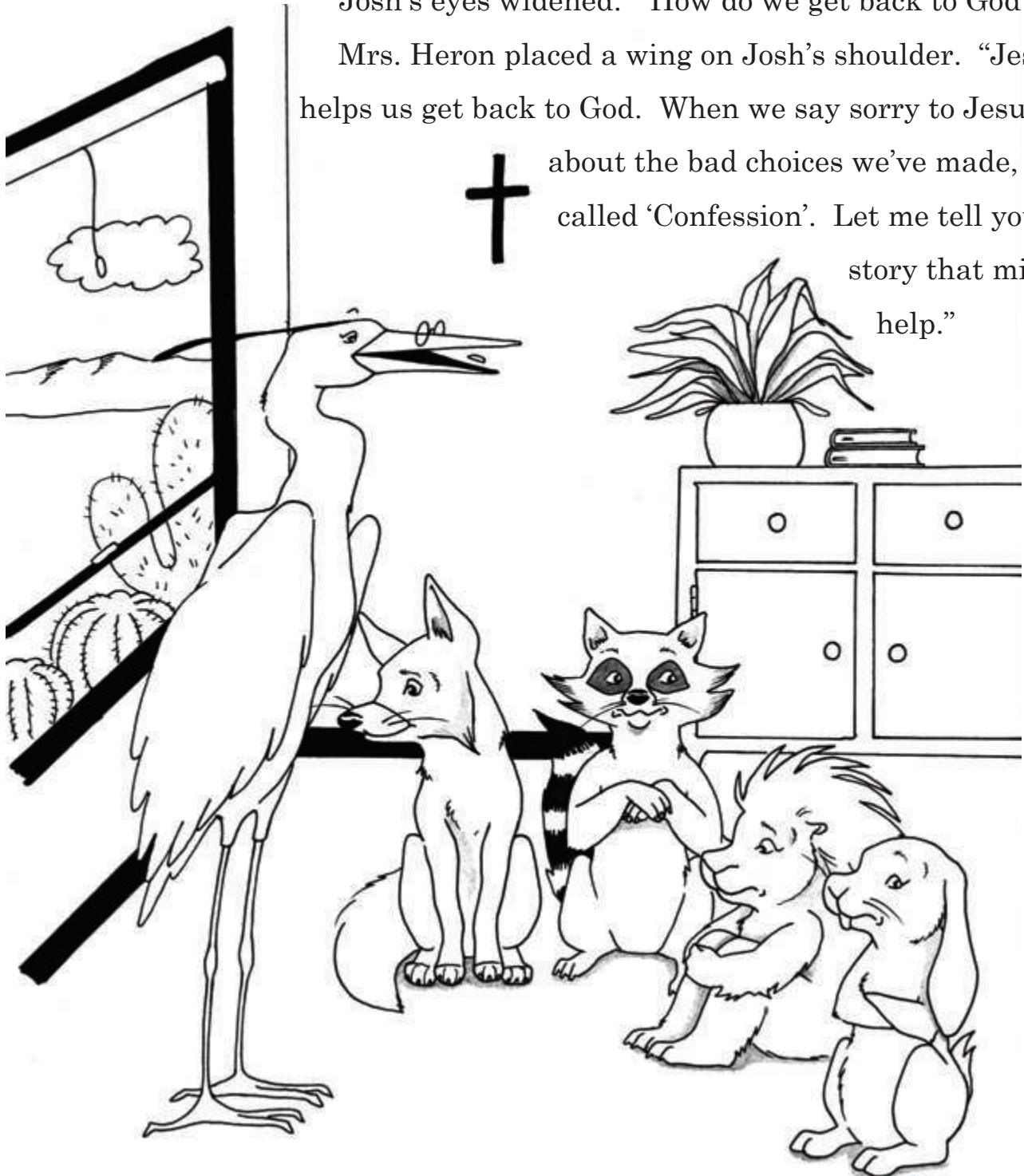
“That was a sin. And sins keep us away from God,” Mrs. Heron explained.

Josh’s eyes widened. “How do we get back to God?”

Mrs. Heron placed a wing on Josh’s shoulder. “Jesus helps us get back to God. When we say sorry to Jesus



about the bad choices we’ve made, it’s called ‘Confession’. Let me tell you a story that might help.”



Once upon a time a coyote lived in a desert canyon, near a farm. The other animals that lived in the canyon did not like the coyote.

“Did you see the coyote yesterday?” asked a mouse.

“Yes!” said a chipmunk, “He snuck under Farmer Joe’s fence and stole a big watermelon. He looked silly running away with that big green thing in his mouth.”

“I bet Farmer Joe was mad,” said the mouse.

“He was very mad,”
said the chipmunk.

“And, I saw the coyote
sneaking off toward the farm a little bit ago.”

“Someday that coyote is going to get caught
and punished for all of his bad choices,” said
the mouse.





At the farm, the coyote ducked as a rock flew above his head and dropped the large squash he had stolen. Farmer Joe grabbed another rock to throw at him, but the coyote scrambled up the hill and hid between two large rocks near the top. He slumped to the ground, panting hard. Then, he noticed a bright light on the other side of the rocks, casting a dark shadow over him.

The coyote slowly peered around the rocks and saw a person who was shining like the sun!

“Oh no!” the coyote said, trembling. “That must be an angel from God.”

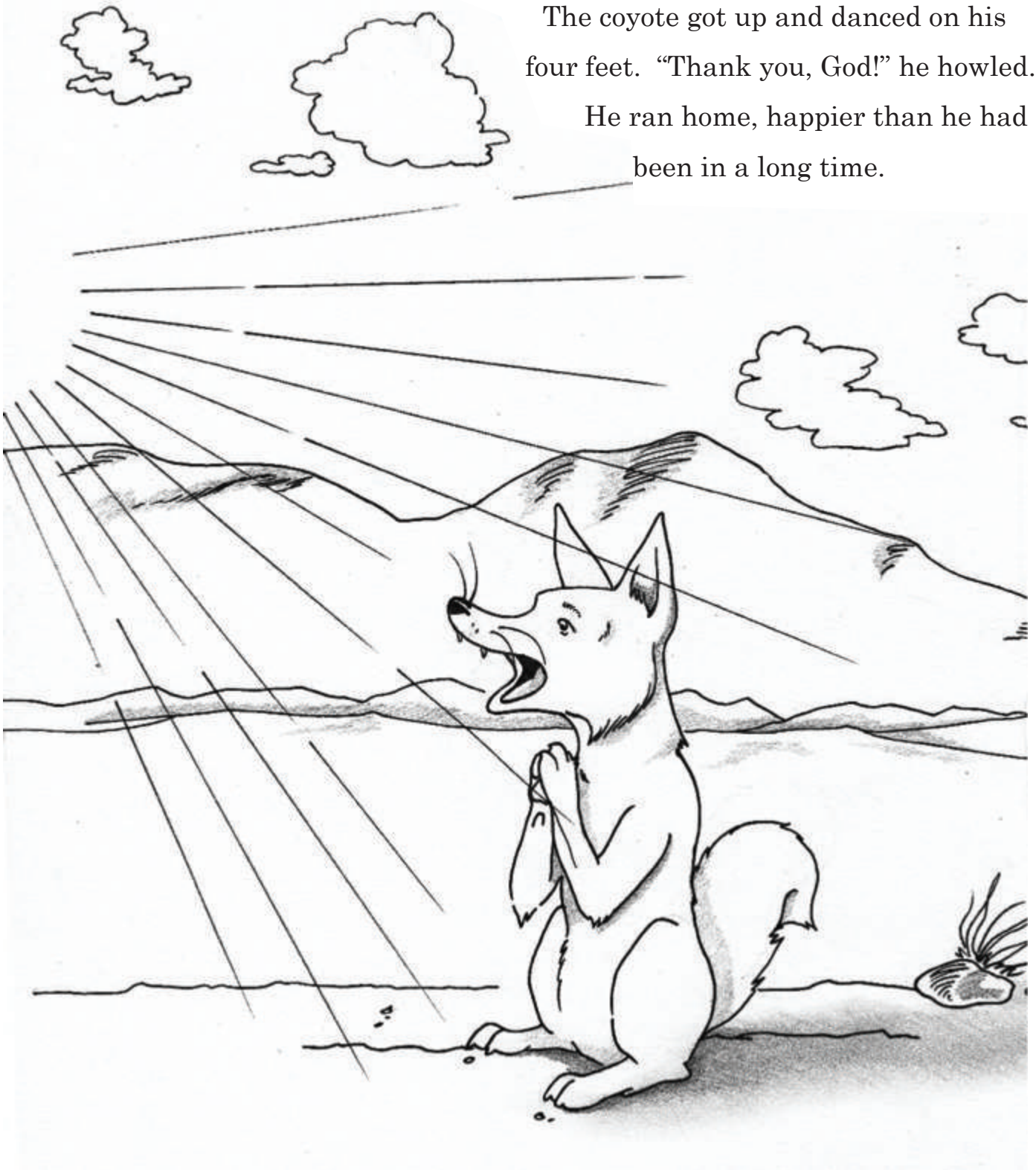
The coyote slunk back into the shadow of the rocks and covered his head with his paws. “I hope the angel didn’t see me!” he moaned. “I’m such a bad animal.” He closed his eyes tight and prayed, “God, I know I don’t deserve it, but please get rid of my bad choices.”

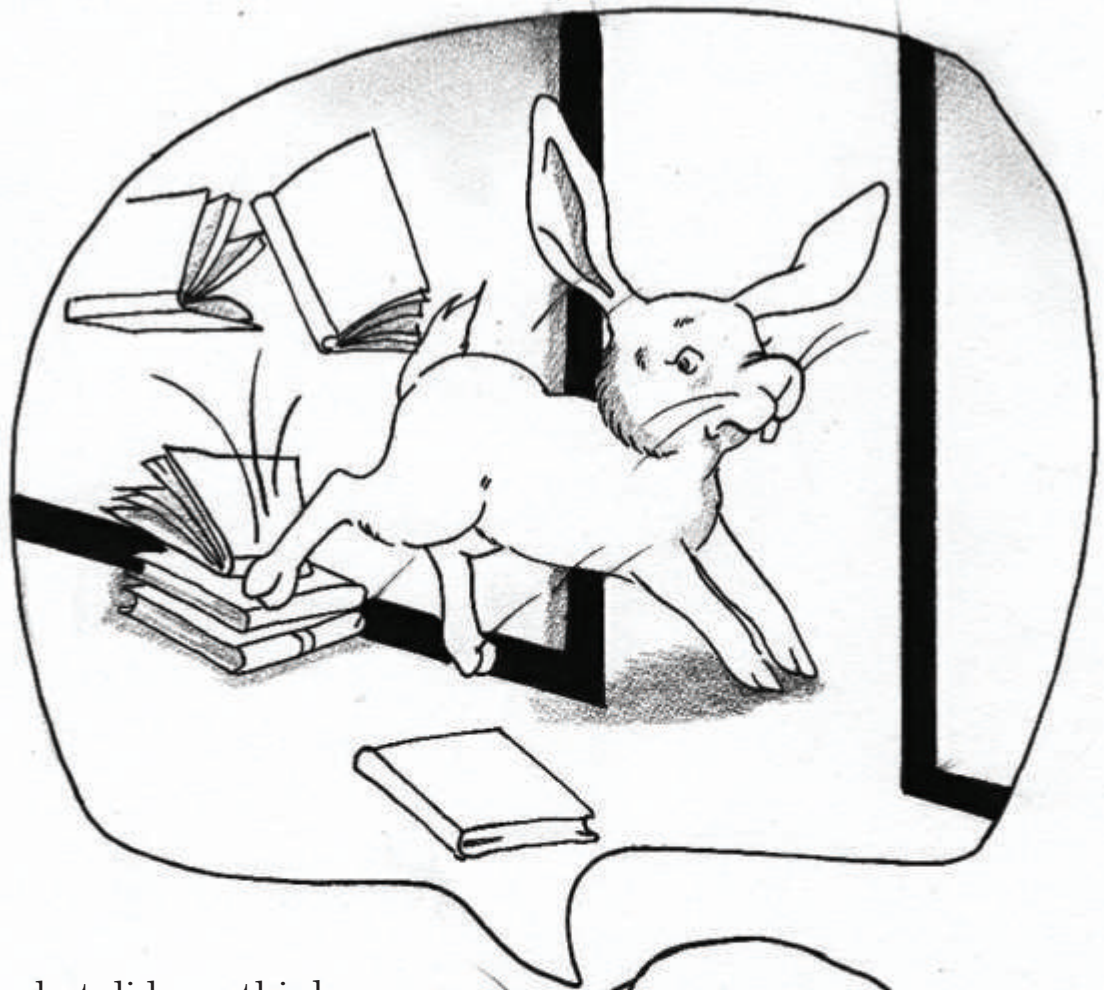
Suddenly, the shadows around him disappeared. The coyote opened his eyes and saw the angel standing in front of him.

She boomed, "Coyote, don't be scared. God has heard your prayer and has gotten rid of all your sins. God loves you and you are now his friend."

The coyote got up and danced on his four feet. "Thank you, God!" he howled.

He ran home, happier than he had been in a long time.





“Well, what did you think of the story?” asked Mrs. Heron, hopping down from her stool.

“The coyote confessed his sins to God, and God got rid of them, right?” asked Josh.

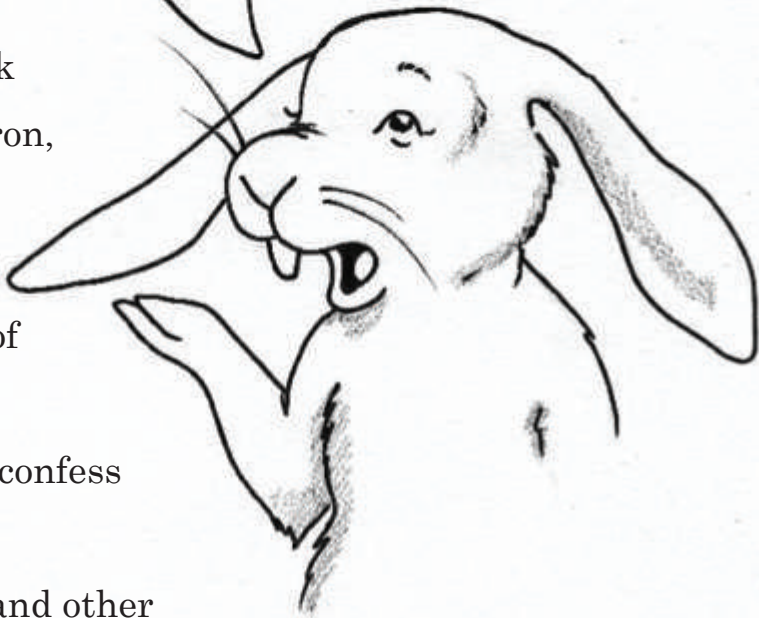
Chloe squirmed. “Can we confess to Jesus other times, too?”

“You can confess to Jesus and other people whenever you want,” said Mrs. Heron.

Chloe stared at her feet. “I’m sorry. I lied about the books. I was playing in the hallway and I accidentally knocked them over.”

“Jesus forgives you and so do I!” said Mrs. Heron, giving Chloe a big hug.

“We forgive you, too!” shouted the other kids.



For the Teacher:

Use these questions to reinforce the important story elements and help the students retain the message of confession and forgiveness from the story.

- 1. Chloe lied about knocking the books down in the hallway. Is it wrong to tell a lie? *[Yes.]***
- 2. Mrs. Heron told the students a story about a coyote who also did something wrong. What did the coyote do wrong? *[The coyote stole food from Farmer Joe.]***
- 3. When the coyote saw the angel, the coyote dropped down to the ground and tried to hide. Why did the coyote want to hide from God? *[The coyote felt bad (or ashamed) for his bad choices (or sins).]***
- 4. What did the angel say to the coyote? What does God do when we confess our sins? *[The angel said that God got rid of the coyote's sins and now he was God's friend. God gets rid of our sins, too.]***
- 5. Chloe apologized for knocking over the books and Mrs. Heron forgave her. Have you ever asked for forgiveness for something you did wrong? How did that feel? *[Answers will vary.]***
- 6. We all sin, or make bad choices. But, we can always tell God and other people that we are sorry. God will always forgive you because he loves you more than you can imagine!**

Mrs. Heron's story about the coyote was based on the Bible story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, found in Luke 18:9-14.