

1st-2nd

Spirit & Truth

*Worshipping God through
the Lutheran Liturgy*



*Confessing
Coyotes!*

Story

Lesson #L2:

Confession

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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.

Ignoring the two of them, Mrs. Heron cheerfully asked, “Well, did church seem like a party today?”

“I guess,” replied Ethan Raccoon, shrugging his shoulders.

“There’s a lot I didn’t understand,” said Olivia Porcupine.

“Yeah,” said Josh, “the pastor talked a lot about sin. 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.

“Then, that was a sin. We sin when we do something that hurts someone,” Mrs. Heron explained.

“Even if it only hurts their feelings?” asked Olivia.

“Yes, even if it’s just a little bit, then it’s a sin.”

“Does lying hurt anyone?” asked Chloe, her voice quiet.

“Lying can make someone not trust you, and that hurts both of you,” answered Mrs. Heron gently.

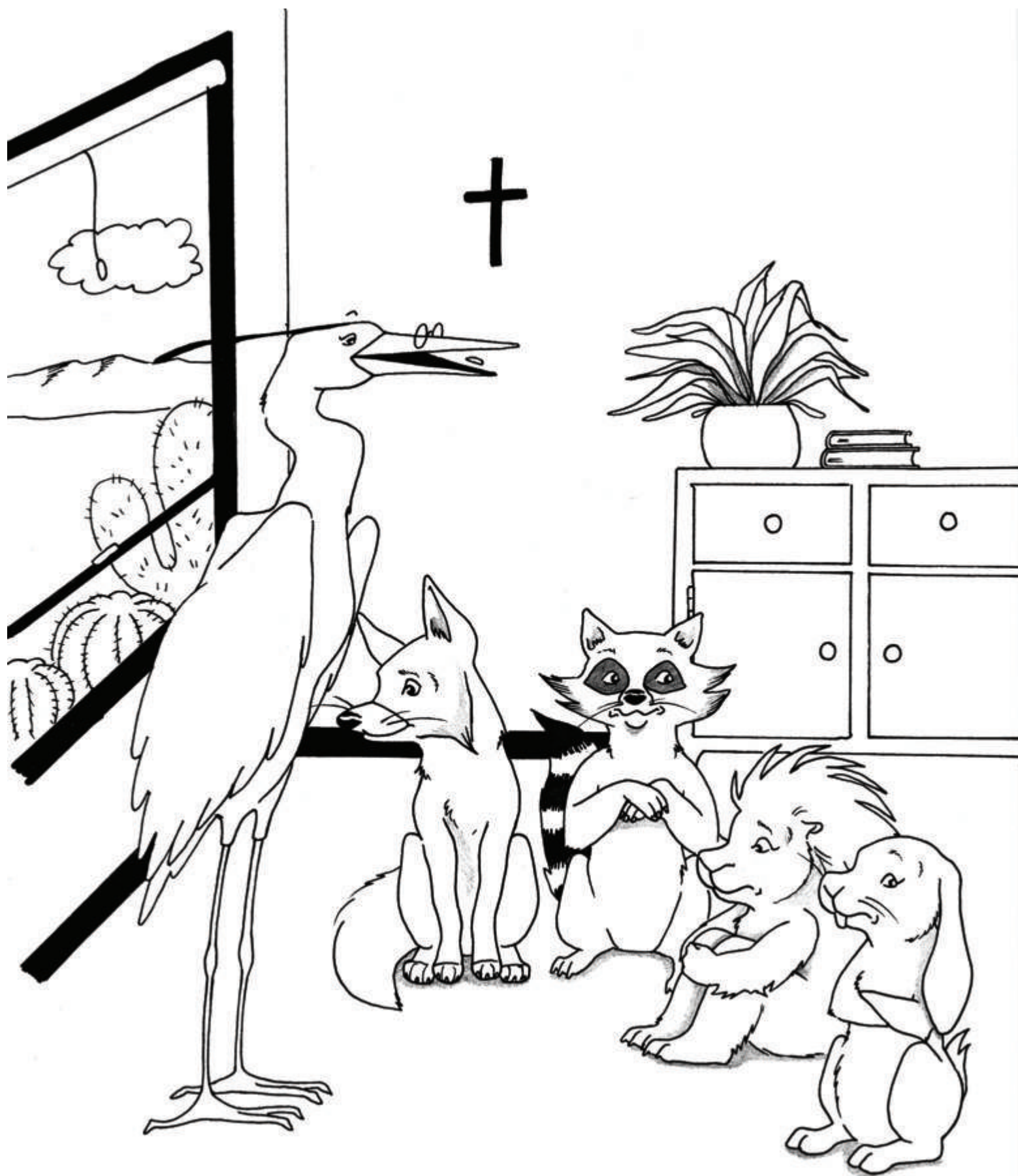
Josh thought about this. “What happens when we sin?”

“Good question, Josh,” said Mrs. Heron. “When we sin, someone gets hurt. And that makes God sad. When we sin, it’s like we’re taking steps away from God. That makes God sad, too.”

Josh’s eyes opened wide. “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 tell Jesus about the bad choices we’ve made, it’s called ‘Confession’. When we confess our sins, we’re telling Jesus about what we have done and that we’re sorry.”

“And that gets us back to God?” asked Ethan.





“Yes, it does,” said Mrs. Heron.

She flapped over and perched on her stool, facing the kids. “Let me tell you a story that might help.”

Once upon a time a mouse and a coyote lived in the same canyon, near a farm. The mouse thought that he was the best animal in the desert. He always wanted to do things his way, which he thought was the right way. The other animals didn’t like him, since the mouse always told them that they were doing things wrong.

The coyote seemed to never do anything right. He stole most of his food from the farmer. He was sneaky and lied to the other animals. None of the other animals in the canyon liked the coyote very much.

One day, a group of animals in the canyon were all talking excitedly. The mouse scurried up to them.

“What are you talking about?” he asked. The animals stopped talking and looked away.

Finally, a chipmunk said, “An owl saw an angel, one of God’s messengers, on the big hill nearby.”

The mouse’s whiskers trembled and he puffed up his chest. “The

angel must be here to see me!” he whispered to himself.

So, the mouse began the long walk up the big hill.

On the other side of the hill, the coyote ducked as the farmer threw a rock at him. He scrambled up the hill to hide between two large rocks near the top. He slumped to the ground between the rocks, panting hard. Then, his ears perked up. Someone was talking behind him!

“You can tell God about how wonderful I am,” squeaked a voice. “I always do everything right. I’m not lazy like the iguanas or selfish like the chipmunks. And, I don’t steal like that sneaky coyote.”

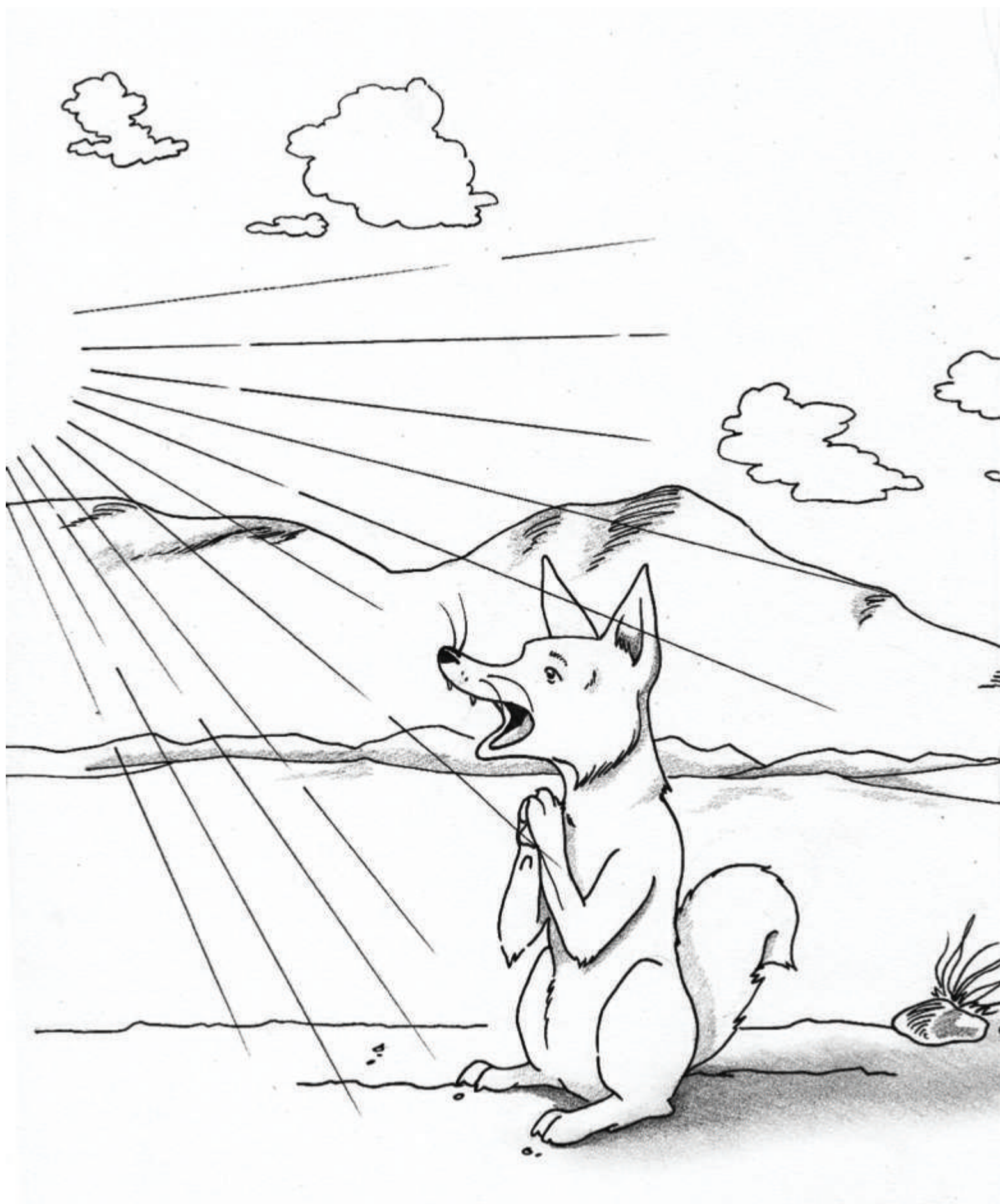
The coyote slowly peered around the rock and saw the mouse. He was standing in front of a person who was shining like the sun!

“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 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 mouse stood behind the angel, glaring at the coyote.

“That nasty coyote is a friend of God?” he screeched. “What about me? I’m better than him! God should love me more.”

The angel turned to stare at the mouse. The angel’s voice rang out again. “Confess, and you will be forgiven, too.”

But, the mouse just spun around and stormed off, his nose in the air..

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.¹

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

“That was great,” said Ethan.

“The mouse was not very nice,” said Olivia.

¹ Based on Luke 18:9-14.

Chloe nodded and whispered, “Nobody’s perfect.”

“So, the coyote told God that he was sorry about his sins, and God got rid of them, right?” asked Josh.

“Yes,” said Mrs. Heron. “We say that the coyote confessed his sins to God. In church, the first thing we do is called ‘Confession and Forgiveness.’ That’s when the pastor helps us tell Jesus about our sins.”

“I think I remember that,” said Olivia.

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

“You can confess to Jesus and other people whenever you want,” said Mrs. Heron, gently placing her wing on Chloe’s shoulder.

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.

