**Children’s Sermon on Perspective**

Today I want to talk about a big word – **perspective**. You may not have heard this word before, but I think you will understand what I mean in a bit. You might have seen this picture I am going to show you. Some teachers have used it in their classroom when they talk about perspective. I certainly used to.

Here is the picture I want you to see (hold up picture so that those sitting around you see it). What do you see? (**some will say that they see an old woman and some will say that they see a young woman).**

Do you see an old woman or a young woman? What features of the old woman do you see? What features of the young woman do you see?

Explain how to see each one.

People can see things so differently. That is what perspective is. It is how we see the world, but it is also very important to see things in a different way. By trying to see how someone else might see something, we can better understand ourselves and others. So, perspective-taking is seeing things from various viewpoints.  We need to learn to get into other people’s shoes and see things from their side. Try to see both the old and young woman.

To help us understand perspective a bit better, I want to tell you about a story. There is a book called *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*. Before I talk about the true story of the 3 little pigs, I want to make sure you know the first story. Do you? Each of the 3 little pigs built a different home – the first built theirs out of straw, the 2nd out of sticks and the 3rd out of wood. The wolf came and huffed and puffed and blew down the homes of the first 2 pigs so that he could eat them. He couldn’t blow down the 3rd little pigs home because it was made of brick and so he didn’t get to eat the 3rd pig, right? We picture the wolf as mean and wanting to kill the pigs so that he could eat them.

Well, the other story called the TRUE story of the 3 little pigs is about Alexander T. Wolf. The story starts out with him in jail for crimes against the three little pigs. He insists that he was framed. He was sent to jail for doing nothing wrong. The truth, he explains, is that he visited the pigs’ homes (who were his neighbors) and he asked them for a cup of sugar to make a cake for his dear old granny. He said he had a really bad cold that day. So there was never any huffing and puffing, as the first story says. He just had a couple of bad sneezing fits. He accidentally blew down their houses by just sneezing too hard. When he saw that the first 2 pigs accidentally died because the homes fell down on the pigs after he sneezed, he felt bad, but didn’t want the food to go to waste. He didn’t plan on eating them, but when he saw the 2 pigs just lying there and they had accidentally died, he felt it would be wrong to leave food around to spoil. So he ate the ham . . . which, he says, would be just like you eating a big, juicy cheeseburger. Now he admits that he was pounding hard at the third pig’s door when the police arrived, but it was only because the pig had made some really mean remarks about his granny. So, he got a bit angry and knocked really hard. That’s when he was arrested and got on the news and the news twisted the whole story to make him sound bad and guilty. So, you see the first story says the wolf is mean, but the 2nd story says the wolf was nice and just wanted to make a birthday cake for his grandma. He didn’t have enough sugar for the cake and just wanted to borrow a cup full. Do you see both perspectives?

So, I hope you can see that everyone has a unique perspective. No two people (or wolves) will see a situation or issue in exactly the same way.

So, back to the picture at the beginning. We want you to be able to see the old woman **and** the young woman. We want you to realize that in the first story about the 3 little pigs, the wolf was mean and wanted to eat the pigs. But in the 2nd story, he just wanted to borrow a cup of sugar from the pigs to make a birthday cake for his grandma (how nice, huh?), but he had a bad cold and accidentally blew their homes down (he didn’t mean to) and then he didn’t want the pig/ham to go to waste and so he ate them – not to be mean, but to not waste the food.

One key to having a good relationship with your friends and family members is in your ability to take the **perspective** of them. **Perspective** taking is the skill of being able to look at things from a point of view other than your own. So, the next time you and a friend disagree about something, try to see their perspective and why they say/believe what they do. The next time your mom/or the adult in your life tells you to do something, try to understand why they ask you to do it and see their point of view. It will make you a better person and one who lives the way Jesus would want you to. It’s a good example of loving your neighbor as much as you love yourself.