

# Sunday between October 30 and November 5 – year B

## All Saints Day

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### Preparation

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Read over these readings: [Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9](#) and [John 11:32-44](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/allb.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwvx.htm#pas>: puzzles

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/savior-who-weeps.html>

<http://children.ccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/247JesusRaisesLazarus.pdf>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/lent5mles.htm>

<http://www.mssscrafts.com/newtestament/lazarus.htm>

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

**For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.**

**For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.**

**For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Blow out the candles. Ask the children to name their heroes (*take some time to note them up on the newsprint*). Now ask the children to name their favourite person in the Bible (*again take some time to note them up on the newsprint*). Ask the children if they can think of things that are the same between their heroes and the people in the Bible (*take time to listen carefully to their responses*). Explain to the children that today is All Saints Day a day where we remember those who in the church that have shown the rest of us how to live in God's love. Ask them to think about who their heroes are and do they help them to live in God's love. (*If you have a saint who your church is named for, you might want to share some information about them with the children at this point.*) Tell the children that today's story is about someone who Jesus loved who then went on in his life to show God's love to all that he met.

## Story Time

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### Materials needed

- Question mark poster made with previous lesson
- Lazarus image at end of lesson
- Scissors, glue stick

### Instructions

Copy the Lazarus image from the end of the lesson and cut it out. Set it with the glue stick near the poster. Place the question mark poster where the children can see it through the lesson.

Jesus had some very dear friends who lived in a village called Bethany, which is not far from the city of Jerusalem. His friends were two sisters who lived with their brother. They were Martha, Mary and Lazarus. They were always happy to see Jesus. They gave him a place to come and rest and be restored.

One day Lazarus got very sick and he died. His sisters Martha and Mary were very sad. They had prayed and prayed that Jesus would come and save their brother. They asked, “Why doesn’t Jesus come and heal Lazarus? Isn’t Lazarus his friend?”

Finally Jesus came to Bethany. Mary went out to meet him. Some part of her was angry with Jesus for getting their after her brother died and the other part was just glad to see her friend. Mary said to Jesus, “If you had been here Jesus, you could have saved my brother, your friend.”

Jesus was very sad as well. He said to Mary, “Where have you put Lazarus’ body?”

They took Jesus to the graveyard. As they were walking along Jesus remembered something from the Bible:

The souls of those who follow God are in the hands of God,  
Nothing will ever hurt them again.  
Everyone thinks that they are dead and that their leaving is a bad thing,  
But they are in peace.

Jesus knew that Lazarus was with God, but he also knew that he had something special to for Martha and Mary and their friends. They came to the grave site. Jesus looked at all the people who were there. He became so sad that he cried. (Pause for a moment.)

Jesus said to Martha, “Tell them to take away the stone.”

Martha was astonished! She looked at Jesus questioningly. She said, “But Jesus the body has been in there for four days already. It will already be smelly!”

Jesus looked at Martha and gently said, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

The people with Mary and Martha took the stone and rolled it away. Jesus stood in front of the grave and after praying to God, said in a very loud voice, “Lazarus my friend, come out!”

Lazarus came out of the grave! Jesus looked around and said, “Take him home, clean him up and get those bandages off of him.”

Everyone, including Martha and Mary were stunned by what had happened. Many people believed in Jesus after this. Lazarus went on to live a good life and showed others how to live in God’s love.

### Question Mark Poster

Direct the children's attention to the question mark in the middle of the poster. Ask someone to remember why they put up a cross, the welcome sign, the jug and cup, the blessing, the kingdom, servant and mercy images from the previous weeks. With the children think about all the questions that were asked in today's story 'why doesn't Jesus come and heal Lazarus' and 'where is Lazarus' body' and 'if you believe what will you see'? Ask them what the answers to the questions were - to show God's glory to the world. Show them the Lazarus image. Have one of the children glue it into the seventh space. Explain that for the next few weeks they will be adding something to the poster to help them remember each week's story.

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Saints Card

#### Materials needed

- card stock
- markers
- glue sticks
- glitter
- tissue paper
- scissors
- saints symbols (check this website for some: <http://gocek.org/christiansymbols>)

#### Instructions

Print up some of the saint symbols from the website above – make sure that you have at least 2 for each child and keep the explanations. Explain to the children that they are going to make a card for people in the parish to help them remember a saint of the church. Give them each a piece of cardstock and have them fold it in half. Have the children print on the inside “**Happy All Saints Day**”. Show the children the various saint symbols and explain to them what the various ones mean. Have the children choose one or two to cut out and then let them colour them in and put on their cards. Invite them to decorate their cards with the craft materials. Encourage the children to sign their names inside the card when they are finished and then find a way to deliver them to different people in the parish.

### Project Idea 2: Saints Oil Picture

#### Materials needed

- plain white paper
- vegetable oil
- pencil crayons or crayons
- cotton swabs
- small containers for the oil
- the website: <http://www.silk.net/RelEd/lessonplans4.htm>

#### Instructions

Take a look at the website and find some pictures to print up for the children. You may want to choose a couple of different ones and have more than one copy so that the children can choose one or two to do. Let the children choose a picture to colour with the pencil crayons or crayons.

Pour some oil into a small container. Show the children how to dip a cotton swab into the oil and then gently spread it over the whole page with the picture on it. Explain once the picture dries it will let the light shine through the picture just like it does for stained glass windows in a church building. Suggest that they find somewhere in a window at home to put up their picture so that they can see the light shine through their picture.

### **Project Idea 3: Open Response**

#### **Materials needed**

- construction paper
- scissors, glue, tape
- tissue paper
- glitter
- pipe cleaners
- fabric pieces
- yarn
- markers
- stickers
- shiny wrapping paper
- bandages

#### **Instructions**

Lay out the craft materials in an attractive way for the children. Ask them to think about the story that they have just heard. Now let them wander around the craft materials and invite them to come up with an art response to the story that they have participated in. Remind the children that today is the day that we remember all the saints of God's church who have shown all of us how to live in God's love. When they are finished with their creations have them share with each other what stories they tell.

### **Closing**

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Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,  
Friend Jesus be with us each day,  
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,  
Amen.**

## Mercy Image

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