

Sunday between October 30 and November 5 – year C

All Saints Day

Preparation

Read [Luke 6:20-31](#). 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/yearc/allc.htm>

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

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/loveyourenemy.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/in-search-of-happiness.html>

<http://talks2children.wordpress.com/category/all-saints>

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

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

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115801_ENG_HTM.htm:

scroll down to find the one for All Saints Day

Gathering

Materials needed

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

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children who their heroes are. (*Wait for their responses.*)

Ask them what are the things that make a person a hero – list those things up on newsprint.

Ask the children if they know what a saint is. (*Wait for their responses.*)

Explain that a saint is someone who follows Jesus' way of love. Now ask them what they think makes up a saint – list those things up on newsprint. With the children see if there any similarities between the two lists. Circle the things that are the same and point out the things that are different. Tell the children that in today's story they will hear Jesus teaching all of us about how a saint of God lives.

Story Time

Instructions

- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today's story. Teach the children the following chant to be used in the story:

Blessings, blessings!
God wants us all to be blessings!

Jesus and his friends were all together. A lot of people came to hear Jesus. A lot of people came to learn from Jesus. They wanted to know how God wanted them to live.

Blessings, blessings!
God wants us all to be blessings!

Jesus looked at everyone there and this is what he had to say:

Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God belongs to you.
 Blessed are you who are hungry, for you will be given enough to eat.
 Blessed are you who cry now, for you will laugh!

Blessings, blessings!
God wants us all to be blessings!

Jesus continued to teach by saying:

Blessed are you when people call you names and keep you away from the fun and hurt you because you follow me. Be happy in that day and leap for joy. Your reward will be great in heaven.

Blessings, blessings!
God wants us all to be blessings!

Now Jesus wasn't finished with his teachings. Jesus knew he had to also warn the people about what would happen if they didn't follow in God's way. Jesus taught them by saying:

Woe and sadness to you who have much and do not share,
 you have already been given everything.
 Woe and sadness to you who are full now and think you don't need anything,
 you will be hungry.
 Woe and sadness to you who are laughing now, for soon you will cry.

Blessings, blessings!
God wants us all to be blessings!

Woe and sadness to you when everyone speaks well of you,
 for that is what people did for those who did not speak with God's words
 in the old days.

Blessings, blessings!
God wants us all to be blessings!

With the children once again look at the list they made and get them to think about how Jesus wants us to live as saints.

Response

Project Idea 1: Blessing Card

These cards will be a way for the children to share today's story with a friend or family member.

Materials needed

- card stock
- markers
- saints image at the end of the lesson
- glitter
- scissors and glue

Instructions

Copy the saints image at the end of the lesson – make one copy for each child. Fold the card stock in half to make a card. Give each child a folded card and the saints image. Have them colour in the image using the markers and then have them cut it out and glue on to the front of the card. On the inside of the card have the children print **“God wants us all to be blessings!”** When they have completed that have them sign their names on the inside of the cards. If you have time get them to gently spread glue on the front of the card and sprinkle glitter on the card – remember to have them shake the excess glitter off into another container or into the trash. Ask the children to think about who they would like to give their card to – to thank them for being a saint or for helping them to be saint like. Encourage the children to give their cards away as soon as possible.

Project Idea 2: Saint Oil Picture

God's saints have been described as shining with God's light. These pictures will help the children to remember that is one of things we need to do in our lives.

Materials needed

- saints image at the end of the lesson
- white paper
- crayons
- markers
- vegetable oil in small containers
- cotton swabs

Instructions

Copy the image at the end of the lesson; blow it up to make it big enough to fill on a whole page. Make one for each child on the white paper. Give each child a picture – with the children look at the person who is helping the other – being a saint of God. Have them print across the bottom of the picture with a marker, **“God wants us all to be blessings!”** Have the children colour in the image with the crayons. When they are done show them how to dip a cotton swab into the oil and then spread the oil over the picture. Explain when the paper dries it will become translucent – that is let the light shine through – which is one of the ways we talk about saints – people who let God's light shine through them. Encourage the children to put their pictures up in a window at home to remind them of how to be a blessing for God.

Project Idea 3: Stained Glass Pictures

Stained glass in our churches are one of the ways we remind ourselves of the stories of God's saints who have shown us the way to God's love.

Materials needed

- wax paper
- crayon shavings
- iron and ironing board
- tea towels
- glitter
- hole punch
- yarn or ribbon
- scissors

Instructions

Cut wax paper into 60-cm (2-ft) squares. To make crayon shavings, take the paper off a crayon and use a vegetable peeler to shave off curls of crayon. Put the shavings into a container. Set up the ironing board and put the iron a low setting. Put one tea towel onto the ironing board. Give each child a piece of wax paper and help them to sprinkle the crayon shavings around the wax paper and then to shake some glitter over the wax paper. Give them the second piece of wax paper to put on top. Carefully place the wax paper pieces onto the tea towel on the ironing board and then place the other tea towel on top of this. Carefully iron over top of the tea towel until the crayon shavings have melted. When this is done punch holes towards each corner. Cut a piece of yarn long enough to make a picture hanger. Explain to the children that the picture will help them to remember to act like stained glass and be one of God's blessings in the world by letting God's light shine through them. Encourage the children to hang up their pictures in window at home.

Closing

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

**Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.**

Saints Image (for project 1)



Saints Image (for project 2)

