

## Sunday, November 2, 2008 All Saints Sunday

### Preparation:

Read the New Testament lesson and Gospel for the day over [Revelation 7:9-17](#) and [Matthew 5: 1-12](#) – Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out 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/yeara/alla.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/happy-puppy.html>

<http://talks2children.itsforministry.org/t2c/view.asp?ID=39>

<http://msssbible.com/newtestament/sermononmount.htm>

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

### Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

White candle

Small votive candles – one per child

Bible & Bookmark

White cloth (optional)

Newsprint and markers

Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. If you have the white cloth put it down and place the candle on it and put the Bible near the candle (you may want to let the children help with this). Write the prayer up on the newsprint so that everyone can see it. Light the candle. Give each child a small candle. Invite them to think about someone who has been important to them – can be a living or dead person. When the children have had a few moments to reflect, ask each of them to name the person and light their candles and place them around the larger white candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

**Loving God be with us today,  
Loving Jesus be with us today,  
Loving Spirit be with us today,  
Amen.**

Blow out all the candles. If you created the 'Question Box' in a previous week, take some time to answer any questions that the children came up with before moving on. Ask the children who are their heroes. They will probably come up with sport stars, TV characters, or other celebrities. Ask the children why these people are their heroes. Explain that in the church we have special people that are our heroes. They are people who have shown us by their lives how to be a better Christian. We call these people saints. If your church is named after a particular saint tell the children as much about that saint as you can. If you know Christian leaders from today or the recent past who have been heroes in your faith

journey share some stories with the children about those people. Explain that in today's story they will hear from Jesus how God wants all of the people, all of the saints, to live their lives.

**Story Time:**

Teach the children the following chant to be used during the story. Get them to give a loud clap after each "Amen".

**Amen! Blessing to God.**

**Amen! Glory to God.**

**Amen! Thanks to God.**

**Amen! Power to God.**

Jesus and his friends were travelling through the countryside. Jesus had been teaching his friends about God and how to live in God's way. Many people in the countryside wanted to learn more from Jesus. So many people came to hear him, that Jesus made a decision. He decided to go up a mountain and teach the people from there.

Jesus and his friends sat down up at the top of the mountain. The other people who wanted to learn sat down around them. Jesus began to teach the people.

Jesus taught them saying:

"God blesses those who are poor in spirit. The kingdom of heaven is theirs."

**Amen! Blessing to God.**

**Amen! Glory to God.**

**Amen! Thanks to God.**

**Amen! Power to God.**

"God blesses those who are sad. They will be comforted."

**Amen! Blessing to God.**

**Amen! Glory to God.**

**Amen! Thanks to God.**

**Amen! Power to God.**

"God blesses those who are gentle. They will be given the earth."

**Amen! Blessing to God.**

**Amen! Glory to God.**

**Amen! Thanks to God.**

**Amen! Power to God.**

"God blesses those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right in the world. They will be filled by God."

**Amen! Blessing to God.**

**Amen! Glory to God.**

**Amen! Thanks to God.**  
**Amen! Power to God.**

“God blesses those who are kind to others. They will receive kindness from God.”

**Amen! Blessing to God.**  
**Amen! Glory to God.**  
**Amen! Thanks to God.**  
**Amen! Power to God.**

“God blesses those whose hearts are pure. They will see God.”

**Amen! Blessing to God.**  
**Amen! Glory to God.**  
**Amen! Thanks to God.**  
**Amen! Power to God.**

“God blesses those who work for peace. They will be called children of God.”

**Amen! Blessing to God.**  
**Amen! Glory to God.**  
**Amen! Thanks to God.**  
**Amen! Power to God.**

“God blesses those who are hurt for the sake of doing the right thing. They will be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven.”

**Amen! Blessing to God.**  
**Amen! Glory to God.**  
**Amen! Thanks to God.**  
**Amen! Power to God.**

“God blesses everyone who is called bad names or hurt for the sake of following me. Be happy for you will be rewarded when you get to heaven.”

**Amen! Blessing to God.**  
**Amen! Glory to God.**  
**Amen! Thanks to God.**  
**Amen! Power to God.**

## **Response:**

### **Idea #1: "Stained Glass" Picture**

*Living out the blessings that Jesus gives to the people is like letting God's light shine through our lives, just as the saints of old. With this response the children will be able to share this idea with their families.*

*Materials needed:* dark construction paper, scissors, white glue or glue sticks, various colours of tissue paper

*Instructions:* Draw as large a circle as possible on the construction paper. Draw another circle 2.5 cm/1 inch inside the first large circle. Cut out the large circle first. Then using sharp scissors cut out the inside circle so that you have a large circle with a 2.5 cm/1 inch border on it. Make enough so that each child has a circle. Give each child a circle. Ask them to think about the stained glass windows they have seen in churches. Explain that we have windows like to show the light of God coming through people who have shown us how to live as Jesus tells us. We call people like that saints for God's light shown through them when they were alive. Invite the children to pick out some different colours of tissue paper and create an abstract stained glass window with that. Remind the children if they overlap the colours they will get different colours showing up. When they are done get them to hold them up to the light so they can see what they look like. Encourage them to place their pictures in a window at home to remember to always let God's light shine through their lives.

### **Idea #2: Oil Picture**

*Stained glass windows in our churches help us to remember how God's light and love shone through the saints of the church. This picture will help the children to remember the blessings that Jesus taught to his followers.*

*Materials needed:* copies of the picture of Jesus at the bottom of the lesson, vegetable oil, cotton swabs, crayons

*Instructions:* Make copies of the picture of Jesus onto white paper. Give each child a copy of the picture. Invite them to colour the pictures with the crayons that have been provided. Once they are done colouring pour some oil onto a cotton swab for each child. Show them how to wipe the oil on so that the whole picture is coated with the oil. When they are completed hold them up to let the light shine through. Ask the children to think about how the stained glass windows in the church let light through them. Jesus in his words to us today is asking to let God's light shine through us as we live our lives. Invite the children to hang up their pictures (when dry) in a window to help them remember this.

### **Idea #3: Saint Blessing Cards**

*We all from time to time would like to receive cards that encourage us in our faith. This idea will enable the children to share encouragement with others in their lives.*

*Materials needed:* card stock, markers, seasonal stickers, scissors, tissue paper, glue sticks, glitter

*Instructions:* Ask the children which of the blessings they heard from the story they liked the best. Write them up on newsprint for them to see. Suggest that they choose one of the blessings to make into a card for someone in their life who they think might need some encouragement in their faith. Invite them to write the blessing on both the front and the inside of the card. Let them decorate the cards with the materials laid out. Remind the children to give their card to the person they have chosen.

**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 our time together,**

**Thank you Jesus for being our friend,**

**Thank you Spirit for showing us the way,**

**Amen.**

Jesus Picture

