

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – All Saints’**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: John 11:32-44**

*Note: This is the lesson plan for All Saints Day. Check with your clergy person about what propers you are using for this Sunday. Some churches use All Saints, others use the Sunday Propers.*

**Background:** During the last weeks of Ordinary Time in Lectionary Cycle B, the Gospel of Mark, our primary guide, continues. The kingdom of God is open for all people. We hear this message in the readings about the rich man, the disciples jockeying for position, the blind man, the saints, the poor widow, and even Pilate as he queries Jesus about being a king. We don't have to pass an entrance exam; we are already in the kingdom. Through all the changes that occur in our lives, what will not change is God's love for each of us. The kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming is already here and yet is also still to come – the undercurrent of Advent, which is coming near.

**A Notation for This Week’s Gospel**

We step aside from the flow of the propers and celebrate all the saints. We stop. We notice. We are surrounded by a flock of witnesses in our midst -- many who have gone before us, some we are just now releasing, and still more with a full life ahead of them. Jesus raises back to life his friend, Lazarus. Lazarus will eventually die, but for now, those who are following Jesus need to know that death has had its stinger removed. "Unbind him and let him go", says Jesus. Each of us, on our last day on this side of life, will know that unbinding and that letting go.

**Theme: Saints**

**Before Class:** You may choose to go online to [www.patriarts.com](http://www.patriarts.com) to see what a commercial company has done with saint medallions made from river rocks to get the idea of the craft suggested for today.

You will need river rocks (or other smooth stones you have found, many times you can find these at an art store or a plant store). You will need paint and small paint brushes. Bring a cardboard box to contain the painted stones so you will be able to give the dried stones to the children next week.

Make copies of the scripture for today, which is found at the end of this lesson.

**Beginning:** Tell the children that today is All Saints Day and ask them to define a "saint." Have a conversation with them about saints.  
I wonder if you can think of any saints? (allow them time to respond)  
I wonder if saints have to be dead? (No.)

I wonder what you would think if I told you that you all are saints? (Help them to understand that saints are people who follow Jesus and that saints are not perfect, they just want to be close to God and do things that help them to be close to God)

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you God, for bringing us saints as examples. Help us to remember that you also call each of us to be a saint. Amen.

**The Story: John 11: 32 - 44** Pass out copies of the scripture that has been broken up into a script. Explain to the children that we are joining this scripture - in progress. Martha and Mary had sent word to Jesus that their brother, Lazarus, was very sick. Jesus did not come at once. By the time Jesus does arrive, Lazarus has been dead 4 days and his family is very sad.

You will need to get volunteers to read each of the different parts or use different voices.

**Reflection Questions:**

- I wonder why Jesus brought Lazarus back to life? (We believe he wanted people to know that life will go on after death.)
- Did Lazarus eventually die? (Yes, but the Bible does not say when.)
- I wonder why we have this story for All saints Day? (Possibly because what was important to Jesus is that all of us are loved, all of us are called to be saints -- on this side of life as well as on the other side.)

**Activity:** Each of us is a saint, and each of us is a different saint. Each of us has gifts that we bring to the world. So, each of us can make a Saint Medallion that stands for us alone. Saint Medallions are rocks with pictures or symbols that remind represent that saint.

Invite each child select a rock and a paint brush. Invite the children to create their own medallion. If they are good at baseball, maybe they will want to paint a baseball or a bat, for instance. Or they can simply paint their rock in a color they like. Suggest that they also put their name on the rock. When they have finished, assemble the rocks in a cardboard box to dry.

**Closing Prayer:** Loving God, we thank you for bringing us saints so we can learn from them. Be with us as we strive to be your saints and do those things you have called us to do. Amen.

**John 11:32-44**

**Narrator:** When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him,

**Mary:** ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’

**Narrator:** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said,

**Jesus:** ‘Where have you laid him?’

**Mary and Crowd:** ‘Lord, come and see.’

**Narrator:** Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said,

**Jews:** ‘See how he loved him!’

**Narrator:** But some of them said,

**Jews:** ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

**Narrator:** Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said,

**Jesus:** ‘Take away the stone.’

**Narrator:** Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,

**Martha:** ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’

**Jesus:** ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’

**Narrator:** So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said,

**Jesus:** ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’

**Narrator:** When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice,

**Jesus:** ‘Lazarus, come out!’

**Narrator:** The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them,

**Jesus:** ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

*Published by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

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