

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – All Saints’ Day (On or Near November 1)
Lesson Plan for Adults

Scripture: Luke 6:20-26

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

Notation for All Saints’ Day

All Saints’ Day invites us to look way back to the very early days of the Church and at people whose lives are an inspiration for us. It also invites us to remember those whom we love that have gone on through the gates of larger life. It calls us to notice those in our midst who show us a brighter way to live. In some mysterious way we are gathered, now, with all those who have gone before, with those we love who live in different parts of the world, as well as with those in the room with us. From the earliest days, the church has taken this opportunity to celebrate and we are invited to join in the celebration.

Quoting from *Holy Women, Holy Men*, “From its earliest days the Church has rejoiced to recognize and commemorate those faithful departed who were extraordinary or even heroic servants of God and of God’s people for the sake and after the example of their Savior Jesus Christ. By this recognition and commemoration, their devoted service endures in the Spirit, even as their example and fellowship continue to nurture the pilgrim Church on its way.”

Theme: For All the Saints (The title of Hymn # 287, Hymnal 1982.)

Before: For a complete list of saints and servants recognized by the Episcopal Church go to www.satucket.com/lectionary. Scroll down to “Feasts” where you will find the list that includes those added by General Convention. You can either look at the list in calendar form (<http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Calendar.htm>) or in an alphabetical list (http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Alpha_list.htm). Those in bold are major feast days. Alternatively, you can have copies of *Holy Women, Holy Men* on hand, or some computers with internet access.

Beginning: As each person enters greet them saying, “Welcome Saint _____” and insert their name. If you are using nametags, you could write the word **Saint** at the top of each nametag.

Today is All Saints Day. What do we mean by saints? (invite conversation and if you wish you can read the quote from *Holy Women, Holy Men* above.)

Opening Prayer: For all the saints – those who have gone on and those right here in our lives, we thank you, God. Help us to celebrate those who show us the way and help us to choose to be the saints you call us to be. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 20:27-38 Invite someone to read the scripture for today. Invite a period of silence for reflection. If you choose, you can then have another person read the scripture again using a different translation.

Questions:

- I wonder what stood out for you in today's reading?
- I wonder what Jesus was trying to get across to those who were listening to him?
- Why do you think this reading was chosen for All Saints' Day? What does it tell us about how saints may have acted?
- I wonder how we might say these things today? (an example is below)
 - It's not about clutching what you have, holding it tight in your hands.
 - It is about holding your hands, palms up, expecting good things.
 - It's not about stuffing yourself with empty calories, but waiting for the food that really satisfies. And the bottom line? Do to others what you would want them to do to you.

Exploring the Saints

Invite each person to think of a saint that they might know. If you printed out some examples of saints, allow them to explore these saints and maybe to discover new ones. You could also have some copies of *Holy Women*, *Holy Men* or a computer with internet access. Invite each person to choose one saint, either an official saint, or someone they know who they would be considered a saint and list three things they admire about this saint.

Getting Closure: When everyone has found a saint, invite each person to share what they admire about that person. (If you choose, you can list the qualities that each person admires on a large piece of paper.)

Closing Prayer: *Collect of a Saint (Book of Common Prayer, page 250)*

Almighty God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses: Grant that we, encouraged by the good example of your servants, may persevere in running the race that is set before us, until at last we may with him attain to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Luke 6: 20-31

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ ‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

22 ‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ ‘But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ ‘Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

‘Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

26 ‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

27 ‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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