

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

**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.*

**Background**

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.”

**Before:** For a complete list of saints and servants recognized by the Episcopal Church go to [www.satucket.com/lectionary](http://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](http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Alpha_list.htm)). Those in bold are major feast days.

Choose the activities that will fit your timeframe and your situation and gather the supplies you will need for each activity.

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

**Lesson Plan**

**Gathering:** Before the session begins, write the word **Saint** at the top of each nametag, or make a sign showing people to write “Saint” before their first name.

Supplies needed: Name tags and markers
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**Preview:** Explain to the group that saints come in at least three varieties: those our church has recognized as special, like St. Mark, St. Francis, or St. Mary; those who have gone before us, like our great grandparents; and those around us who God loves – which means all of us. Tell the group which activities you have chosen to help celebrate all the saints. Answer any questions.

**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.

**The Story: Luke 6: 20-31**

Today we have Jesus’ crash course for his disciples: how are they to live as the saints God has called them to be? These ways to be are sometimes called the Beatitudes – which we could call: the Be Attitudes or Ways to Be.

**Supplies needed:** Copies of the Bible or copies of the scripture found at the end of the lesson plan. You can also see the Lesson Plan for Older Children for a script.

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.

**Questions:**

Ask the people to self-select groups of two or three (making sure that very young children have an adult in their group to draw them out). Ask the group to identify people they know who sound like the people Jesus is describing. Examples: the school-crossing guard, the person who cooks lunches in the school cafeteria, the nurse at the clinic, fire fighters, etc.

When they have come up with their names, gather the group together and ask them to tell the whole group about the people they identified. If time permits, ask the group to offer names of people they know who have gone on to be with God: perhaps a grandparent, a soldier who fought for our country, for example.

**“For All the Saints” – New words**

Write more contemporary words to the hymn.  
Example: For all the saints, who show us how to be, who point things out to us, so we can really see, (etc.)

**Supplies needed:** Copies of Hymnal 1982, hymn # 287. Paper and pencils.

**“For All the Saints” Banner**

Ask each person to take ovals and add features to create a simple portrait of at least one of the saints they have identified. Young children can show the way to make simple cartoon-type portraits. The name of the saint may be written on the oval if the person wants to do so. The groups may also select one of the saints described on the biographies you have printed out and create an oval for each of them.

**Supplies needed:** A long, wide length of paper (roll of craft paper or box of freezer paper). Ovals cut from dark construction paper + colored chalk. Or ovals cut from white paper + crayons or markers. Glue or transparent tape.  
Option: print out some of the biographies of saints from [www.satucket.com/lectionary](http://www.satucket.com/lectionary)  
Note: Oval Pattern follows at end.

When all the ovals are completed, have the people attach their portraits on the long sheet of paper.

### **“For All the Saints” Parade**

Practice singing the first verse and then parade around the room, carrying the banner or individual pictures of saints. Stop at the end of each stanza and ask for one person to name the saints they added to the banner. Sing the next stanza and stop for another person to name another set of saints. (If you wrote new words for the hymns, use them.)

**Supplies needed:** Copies of Hymnal 1982, hymn # 287 or just the first verse printed on a large piece of paper.

### **Saint Who? (Game)**

Ask the group to self-select small groups of no more than three people – possibly the same group as was together before. Ask them to choose a saint and figure out a way to pantomime actions that will help the rest of the group guess who they are portraying. Using props may be helpful. When groups are ready, ask each one to “introduce” their saint until the rest can recognize who it is.

**Supplies needed:** Whatever you have on hand: a replica of a bird for St. Francis, a feather for the native American saint, etc., paper and crayons, scissors

### **A New All Saints’ Collect**

Invite the group to write a new collect for All Saints Day. A “Collect” gathers several prayers into one. Here is a way to paraphrase the elements of a collect:

1. “Hi God,”
2. “Thank you for,”
3. “Please help us to”
4. “so we will”
5. and concludes by naming all three persons in the Trinity:  
Jesus, Holy Spirit, God.
6. “Amen.”

**Supplies needed:** The Collect for All Saints’ Day (BCP p. 245) either written on a chalkboard (newsprint or white board) or photocopies. Paper and pencils.

Working all together – or in small self-selected groups (making sure that young children have an adult in their group) write an All Saints Day Collect. If you have been working together, say the collect together. If you worked in groups, ask each group to present their collect.

### **Getting Closure:**

Smooth the sand in the container. Give each person a candle and tell them to choose who the candle represents: a saint past or present and place their candle on the tray. When all the candles are positioned, gather the group in a circle around the tray. Ask the people to, one by one, name their saint. As each saint is named use the taper candle to light one candle. When all candles are lit, enjoy them in silence for a moment, then – if you have learned the hymn #287, sing one verse of For All the Saints.

**Supplies needed:** A large, round flat container (pizza pan or tray), tea light candles one for each person, sand, one large taper candle plus a match.

## Closing Prayer

Use a Collect the group wrote – if your group did it. Otherwise close by offering this 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.*

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## 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.

<sup>21</sup> ‘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. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice 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.

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

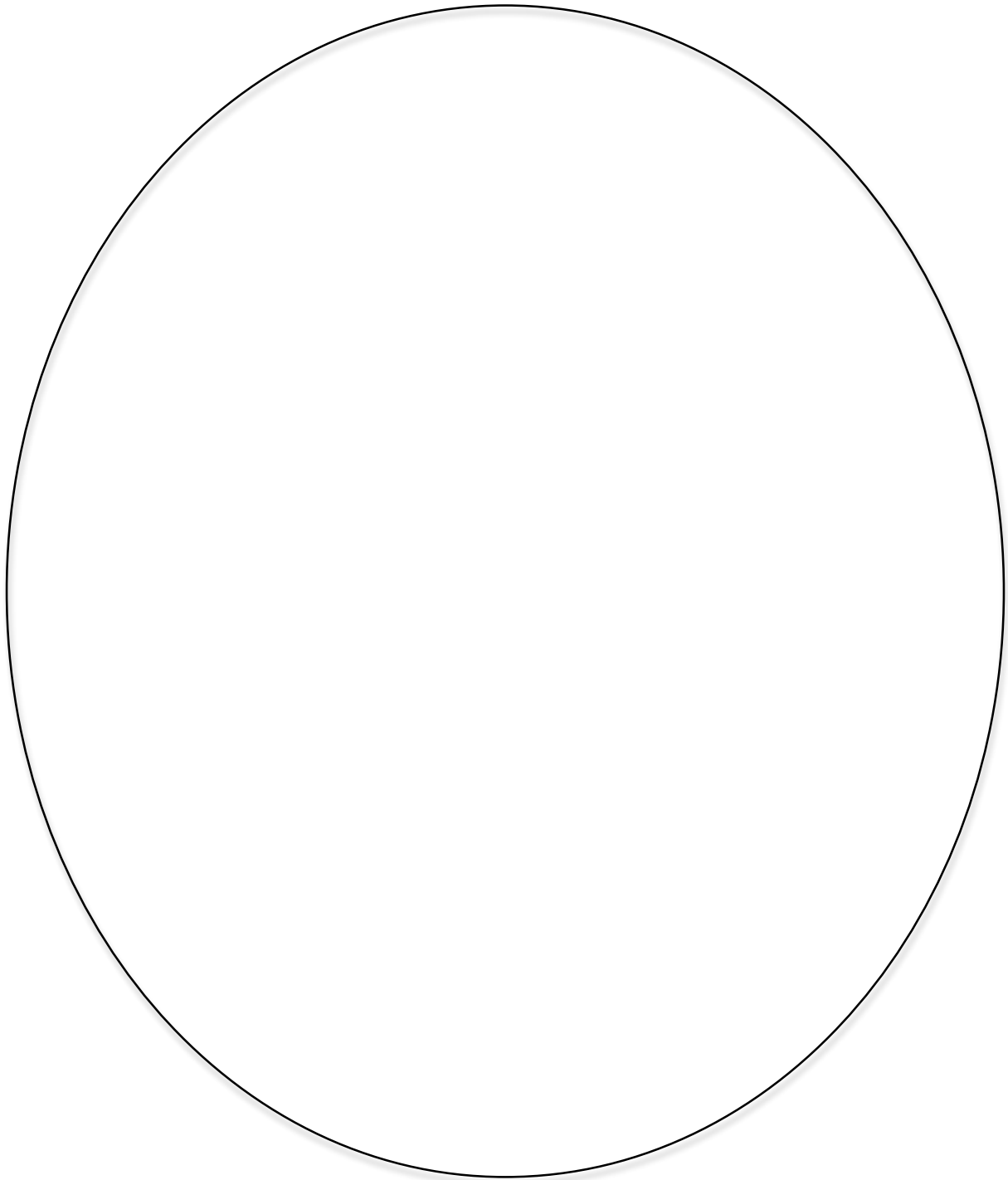
<sup>25</sup> ‘Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

‘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, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

**Pattern for Ovals:**



*Printed 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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