

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

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. 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.

You will need to choose some saints for the children to explore in class. Print them out try to find some pictures of them. You will also need copies of the oval below (if you choose you can cut them out) and crayons or markers.

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

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. I wonder if any of you know what a saint is? (give the children time to respond) Saints are people who the Church remembers because they were extraordinary, heroic servants of God and God’s people. By remembering them, their service becomes an example for us to follow. Today, we will be exploring this together.

Opening Prayer: For all the saints we thank you, God. Help us to celebrate those who show us how to live and help us to choose to be the saints you call us to be. Amen.

The Story: Jesus wanted to teach his disciples how to act and how to treat others, so he said to them, you are blessed if you have lost what you have, because God's kingdom is there for you. You are blessed when you are hungry, because you are ready to feast with God. You are blessed when you cry and are sad because God is there to lift you up into joy. When someone is mean to you and you are not mean back, that means that you are closer to God's love. But watch out for those who think they have everything and are satisfied and only play and not work too. Those who live this way will find themselves disappointed and not in God's favor.

It's not about clutching what you have, holding it tight in your hands. (show this with your hands, explaining how holding tight does not allow you to receive anything)

It is about holding your hands, palms up, expecting good things. (open your hands to show the children how to receive good things.)

The bottom line? Do to others what you would want them to do to you.

Questions:

- I wonder if you have heard of the Golden Rule: Do to others as you would have them do to you?
- I wonder what you think that means?

Activity: The church remembers amazing people who we call saints. The saints are people who the Church remembers because they were extraordinary, heroic servants of God and God's people. By remembering them, their service becomes an example for us to follow. Today, we will be exploring this together.

Today, we are going to learn about some saints. People who lived by the Golden Rule and followed what Jesus teaches.

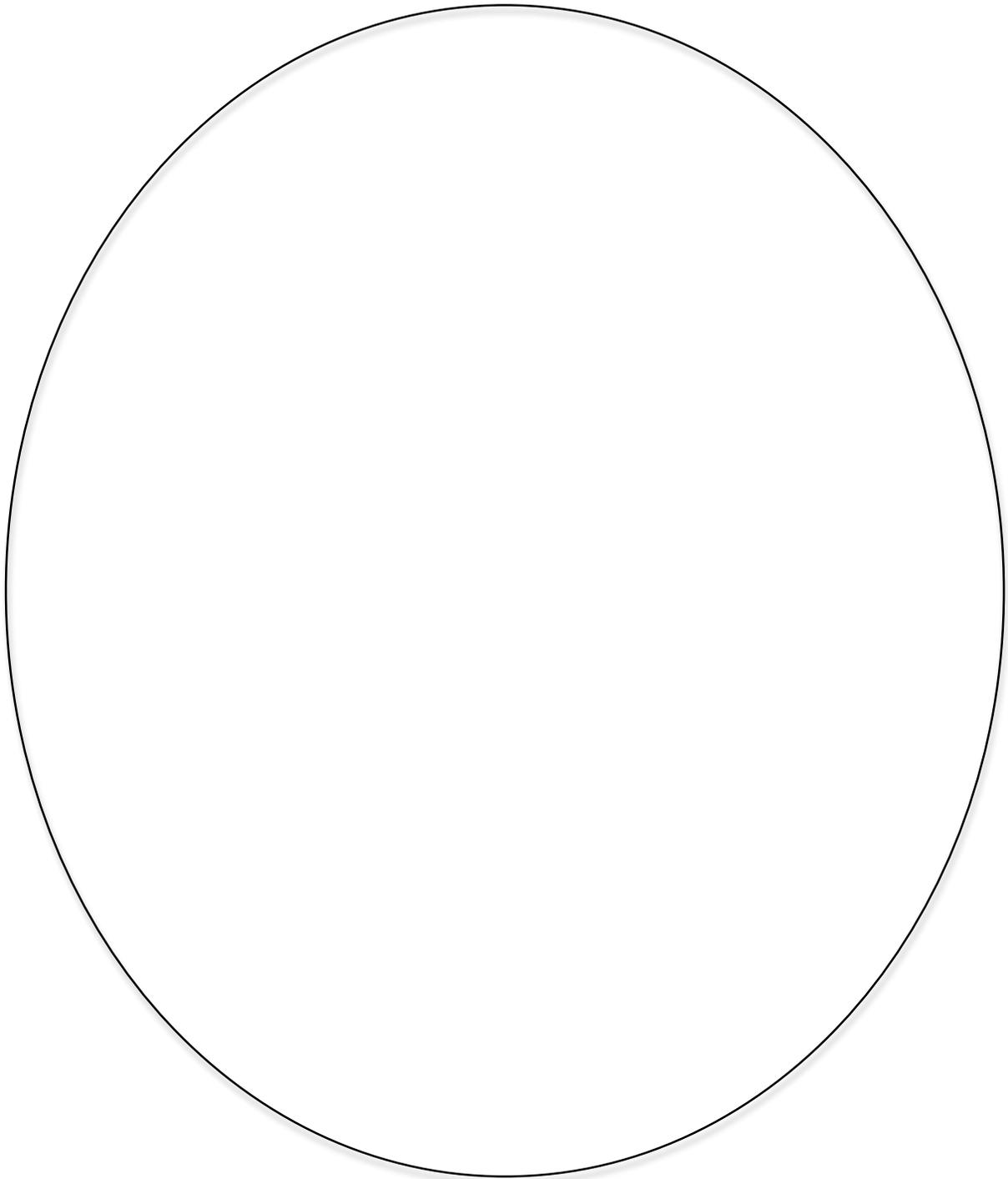
(Talk through the saints you have chosen, and show them pictures.)

Invite the children to each take an oval and draw a picture of a saint that you talked about today.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share the saints pictures that they created.

Closing Prayer: Thank you God, for giving us the example of the saints. Help us to remember them so we can better know how to follow you. Amen.

Pattern for Ovals:



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