



Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

Revelation 7: 9 & 15 All Saints Day

Theme: What is a saint and why would I want to be one?

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

Welcome to November! The theme we will be exploring this month is ‘saints’ – the first session will invite your group to think about saints and, in particular ‘All Saints Day’.

All Saints Day is an opportunity to remember all saints and martyrs (the famous, not so famous, known and unknown). It is always November 1st.

But what is a saint? Can anyone be a saint? The Roman Catholic Church has a strict process that must be followed before someone can be called a saint (canonisation: [What is the process for canonization? A guide for All Saints’ Day | Catholic News Agency](#)). But ‘saint’ can also refer to ordinary people who believe in Jesus. The early Christians living in Jerusalem were referred to by Paul in his letters as ‘saints’ – because they continued to believe even though they were persecuted.

We all strive to be like Jesus – but that is a very high bar. Maybe we can try and be more saint-like to begin with?

In the Roman Catholic Church, when a young person is confirmed, they choose a “saint’s name” – normally a saint that they feel they identify with in some way. In this way, saints may be described as celebrities or influencers – but influencers in faith.

The most recent saints were canonised in 2022 with one of them, Titus Brandsma, dying as recently as 1942.

Being canonised is a recognition from the Roman Catholic Church that you are an ordinary person who has done extraordinary things. In the United Reformed Church we acknowledge saints, but don't canonise people. We have other ways of recognising when someone is doing good things – and that includes children and young people who can be awarded the Lundie Memorial Award [Lundie Memorial Award - United Reformed Church](#).

If you would like to see some extra resources to help you explore the topic of All Saints Day you can look at the resources produced by the United Reformed Church at [Families-on-Faith-Adventures-week-79-All-Saints-.pdf \(urc.org.uk\)](#).

Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

In-person and Alternative game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

Saintly Bingo

This a fun take on a bingo game, using the saints as the theme. Start by creating your own bingo cards, thinking about how you can relate it to the saints. Are the squares going to be numbered? Or assigned to a saint? Perhaps there are other ways to play this game.

You will need a 'caller', someone who calls the numbers/ categories that you have chosen, everyone else is to mark off the number/ category as it is called out, the first one to mark off a line of numbers either horizontally or vertically shouts, 'I'm a saint'.

There is a blank Bingo sheet attached to start you off. Alternatively you can find some pre-written cards on FACT.

Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Watch: Stories of hope and faith: All Saints Day <https://youtube.com/shorts/-ZTzJlloX7E?si=HXUYcl6vUF2OHW3J>

Elevation Music: King of Kings by Jarrod Cooper
https://youtu.be/SnuRldNwiwg?si=Ens9H8ZWx_-LaQmj

Questions for discussion

Watch the YouTube video and listen to the lyrics of the song.

- Why do you think All Saints Day is also a day to remember those who have died?
- Some countries have a national holiday on November 1st. Why do you think this is? Should we?
- How does the song King of Kings relate to the passage from Revelation?
- What does the line “In royal robes I don’t deserve.....” mean to you?
- The lyrics describe different ways of relating to God:

King of kings, Majesty
God of Heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour, closest friend
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end

Which best describes your relationship with God/Jesus? What words might you use?

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Alternatively:

There are many, many saints, some you may have heard of and some which are new to you. Start by researching some of the saints you already know of, this could be done as a large group, in small groups or individually.

- What can you find out about them?
- What did they do?
- Where did they live?

Be creative in how you feedback the information you find, will you make something?
Perform something?

In the Roman Catholic Church, when a young person is confirmed, they choose a “saint’s name” – normally a saint that they feel they identify with in some way. In this way, saints may be described as celebrities or influencers – but influencers in faith.

I wonder whose name you would take? To get you started think of something which makes you, you or perhaps think of a hobby or interest you have and then google patron saint of.....said quality or interest.

Modern parables

Watch this short (7 min) clip of a catholic priest explaining how we can be a ‘saint’ as a normal person. Its more about how we live holy lives. Looking at the prophet Micah’s words of what God wants from us, do right, walk humbly and do justice. The answer could be more simple than we think.

<https://youtu.be/3B3nUjmP0-Q?si=9XtvrEkLbpexbqoB>

- Have a brief discussion about your initial thoughts.

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

Talking together: Going deeper

- There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 good people (Luke 15:7) – does this mean God loves sinners more than saints?
- Only the Catholic Church decides who should formally name a saint – does this mean that they have the monopoly on sainthood? Does this mean that we can’t talk about saints in the URC?

Conversation starters

- Why do you think so many churches are named after saints?
- How does it feel to know you are a saint-in-the-making?

Express

How do we respond to what we’ve discussed and express our faith personally?

Praying together

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below.

Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

These are well known prayers from two saints that you could make your own. Read them and make sure you understand what they are saying first, then use them in your prayers.

Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is darkness, light,

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood as to understand, not so much to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

(St. Francis Of Assisi)

Reflection by St Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands.

Yours are the feet.

Yours are the eyes.

You are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Amen. *(St Teresa of Avila)*

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Respond

Spend some time looking at modern versions of "icons" which represent saints by exploring the sites suggested below.

The Modern Saints – www.themodernsaints.com

"The Modern Saints" is a project created by artist Gracie Morbitzer who aims to create contemporary representations of the saints. Her website describes the work as **"The saints painted with character, correct age & ethnicity, and modern style to show just how human they were - & just like us."** Head to the "saints" tab at the top of the website, to view the different art works, and click on each of the images to learn more about each of the saints. Spend some time looking through this site together and learning about the different saints. Try selecting some of the saints and searching for images of them online. How do other images compare to these modern versions?

Kelly Latimore Icons – www.kellylatimoreicons.com

Kelly Latimore's website contains a range of icons which include versions of historic saints as well as modern day saints. They state on their website ***"I do not wish to approach Iconography as an art form that simply follows an inherited tradition, knowledge, and practice. I want it to be a 'holy pondering', meditation, and process that potentially brings about a new way of seeing for the viewer and me. What is the artwork in our churches and communities for? Who are the saints that are among us here and now? Where is Christ present right in our own backyards?"*** Look at the images included on the online gallery on the website. Are there any images that particularly stand out to you and why? Research some of the individuals included in the images and explore why you think they may be considered as "modern day saints."

Create group "Icons"

Have each group member stand in front of a whiteboard, or large sheet of paper, and draw around their outline, adding a circular "halo" around their head. Encourage group members to add positive affirmations around the drawing, to highlight the positive attributes, skills and actions of group members. Celebrate the groups attributes and share a prayer of thanks together.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

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- Use one of the "conversation starter" questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **I wonder what your thoughts are on saints and being canonised?**
 - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](http://Resources(jpit.uk)) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk
 - Think of all those people who you know in your life and community, you may want to think further afield to those who are in society but do not know personally. Who would you canonise and why? Think especially about those whose motivation for their behaviour is linked to their faith. Perhaps you could let them your thoughts or even present them with a little gift.
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Thank you for exploring the **Revelation** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on https://bit.ly/FACT_FB



Saintly bingo