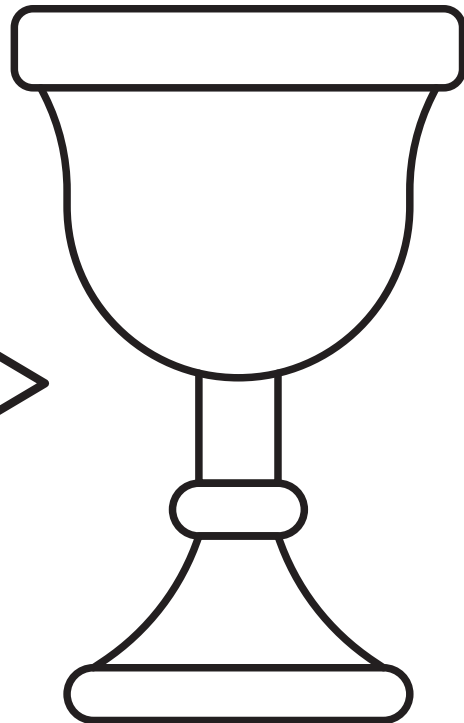
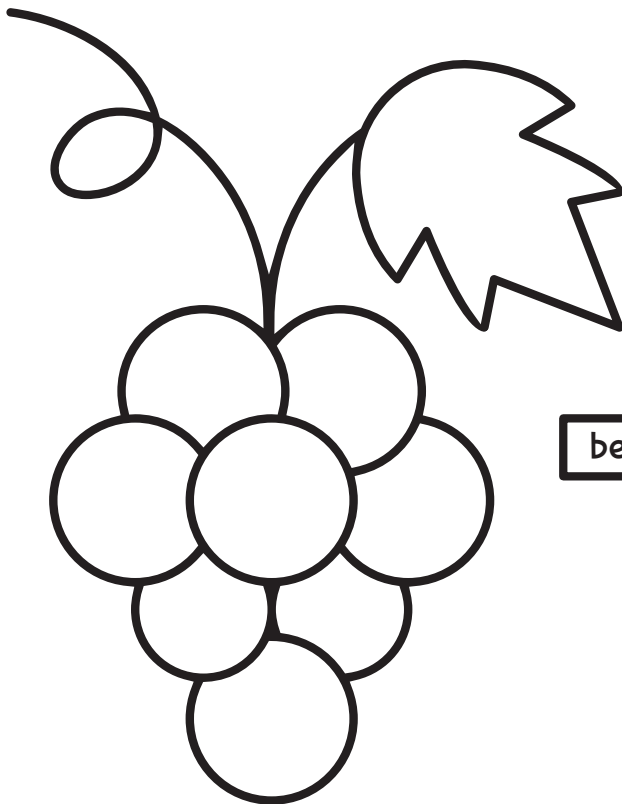
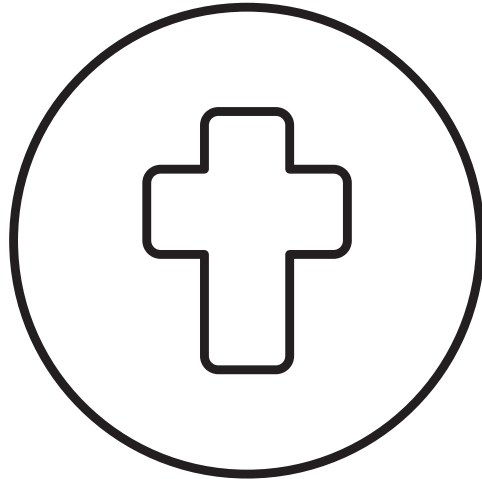
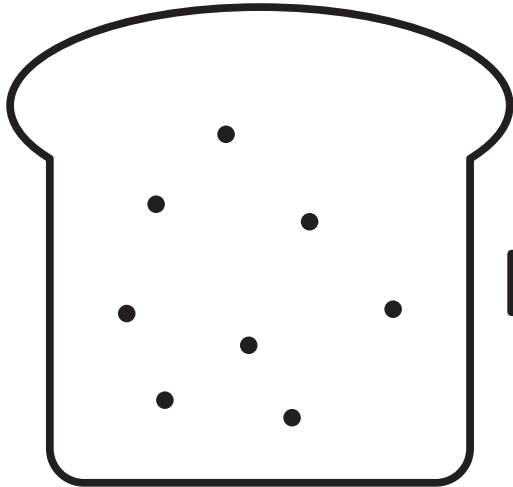
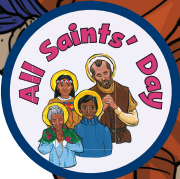


The Eucharist

Just as bread and wine changed at the Last Supper, they are also changed at Mass. Color the pictures below.





Living a Life of Love

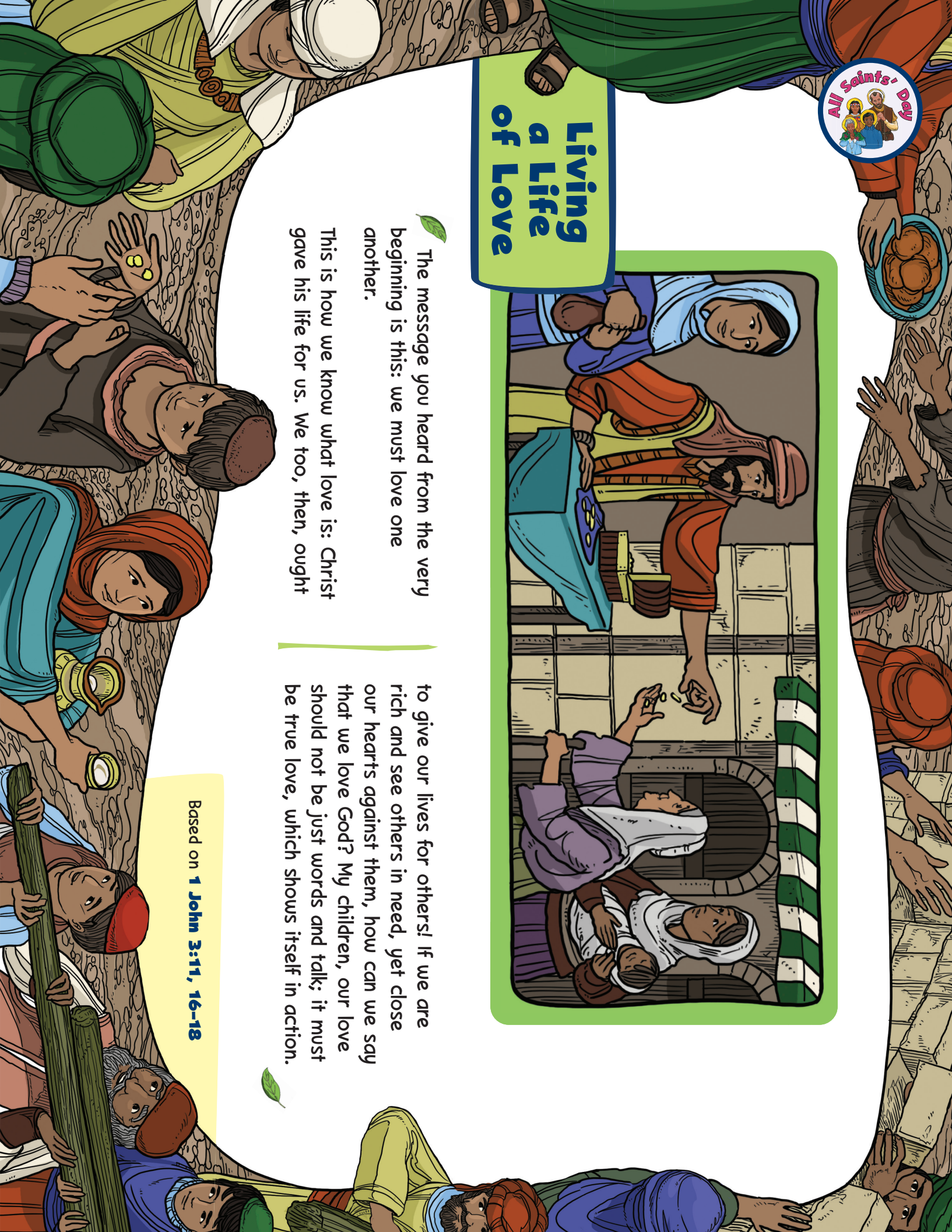


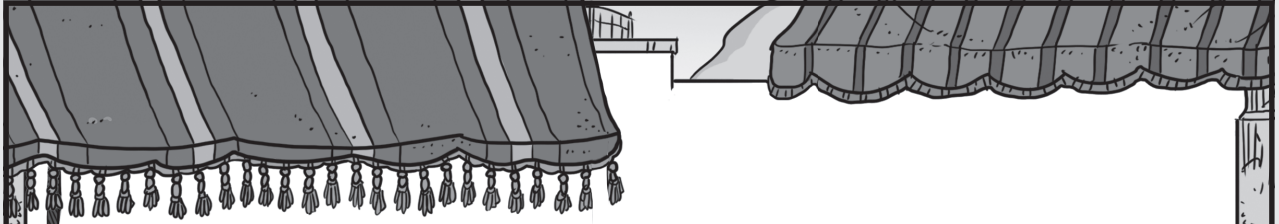
The message you heard from the very beginning is this: we must love one another.

This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought

to give our lives for others! If we are rich and see others in need, yet close our hearts against them, how can we say that we love God? My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.

Based on **1 John 3:11, 16-18**





All Saints' Day



Living a Life of Love





Lesson at a Glance

Scripture Focus

1 John 3:11, 16–18

Lesson Goals

- to understand that the saints followed Jesus
- to realize that the saints lived lives of love
- to know that we can imitate Jesus and the saints in living lives of love

Catechism References

946–962

Materials Needed

- the All Saints' Day child's page, removed from each Bible story booklet
- copies of the All Saints' Day family page, on page 231 of the catechist guide, one for each child
- pictures of the following saints: Saint Mary (Our Lady), Saint Joseph, Saints Joachim and Anne, Saint Peter, Saint Paul, and the saints of your parish or area
- materials for any of the activity ideas you choose from pages 228–229 of the catechist guide

Background Reflection

One catechist jokingly refers to Halloween, All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day as "the October Triduum." Yet these *are* important days in the life of the Church. Halloween is especially memorable for children, and they can learn that we are really celebrating "the eve of All Hallows (All Saints)." All Saints' Day and the following day, All Souls' Day, are our family celebrations in Christ. We remember and celebrate those who have gone before us, who have lived lives of love, and who are encouraging us now in our lives of loving service.



Get Ready! (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Begin by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross.
- Continue with this prayer:
 - Lord Jesus, today we celebrate those who followed you most closely. Help us become like them by following you and living lives of love. Amen.
- End with the Sign of the Cross.

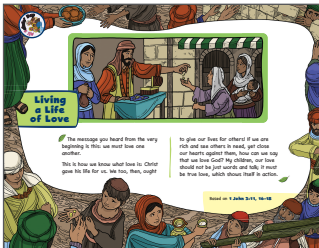
Engage

- Ask the children if they have ever heard of a saint. Allow them to name saints familiar to them, like the name of their parish or a favorite patron saint, etc.
- Invite the children to share what they think a saint is. Accept their responses, and tell them they will learn more about a day in the Church when we especially celebrate these people who have gone before us.



Dive In! (15 minutes)

Bible Story



- Distribute the child's page, and ask the children to look at the main picture above the Bible story. Briefly discuss the picture by asking the following questions:
 - What do you see happening in the picture at the top of the page? (*A man is giving coins to an older woman.*)
 - Who else is in the picture? (*a woman with a baby, and a woman with a bag of money, helping the man at the table*)
 - Let's look at the top left corner of the page. Do you see two arms of the woman holding a basket? What is in the basket? (*loaves of bread*) What is the woman doing? (*She is giving bread to someone reaching for the bread, someone who is hungry.*)
 - Finally, let's look at the bottom of the page. What does the boy have in his hand? (*three coins*) The man in the green hat gave him the coins, maybe to buy food.
 - Two other boys are helping an older man. What are they doing? (*helping carry logs*)

- We can also see a woman offering a drink to a boy who is helping a man carrying wood.
- There are a lot of people in these pictures! Some people are receiving. Other people are giving. Let's read the Bible story to find out what all this giving and receiving is about.
- Read the Bible story to the children slowly, stopping briefly after each sentence. If the children are readers, invite them to follow along. If not, invite them to look at the main picture as you read.

Today's Bible Story

Living a Life of Love

The message you heard from the very beginning is this: we must love one another.

This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for others! If we are rich and see others in need, yet close our hearts against them, how can we say that we love God? My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.

(Based on 1 John 3:11, 16–18)



Discover! (25 minutes)

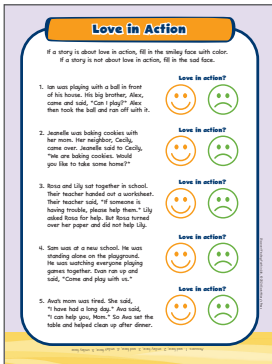
Core Teaching

- Ask the children who the writer of this Bible story is speaking to. (*the followers of Jesus; all Christians, including us today*)
- Begin the discussion by asking what the Bible story is telling us about. (*love*)
- Reread aloud the last sentence of this Bible story: "My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action."
- Invite the children to name some actions of love. Affirm their responses, and tell them we can show love to others in our actions every day. Point out that love is an important quality to show as followers of Jesus.

- Explain that there is a celebration in the Church to remember all of Jesus' followers who took the message of love and put their love into action by helping others. Share that this celebration, or feast, is called All Saints' Day.
- Show pictures of some saints to the children. Explain that Our Lady is the greatest saint, the queen of all saints, because she is the Mother of God. Share that she is also called Saint Mary, and many churches are called Saint Mary's Church after her. Give some examples of other saints, such as the following:
 - Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and foster father of Jesus
 - Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin, and Jesus' grandfather and grandmother
 - Saint Peter, the first leader of the Church and the first pope
 - Saint Paul, a great missionary and teacher, who wrote many letters about Jesus
 - the saints of your parish or area
- Explain that on the Feast of All Saints' Day, we celebrate all the saints. Tell the children that we celebrate the famous saints we know about, and we also celebrate the saints who are in Heaven we do not know about, who also spent their lives showing love for others.
- Conclude by saying that someday we all hope to be in Heaven with God, and we all hope to be saints!

Learning Activities

- Choose an activity from the ideas outlined on pages 228–229 of the catechist guide, and explain the directions to the children.
- Lead the children in the activity, taking time to help them connect the activity and today's lesson.
- Introduce the activity on the child's page, reading any directions that are offered.
- Assure the children that if they do not finish the child's page activity by the end of the session, they can complete it at home.

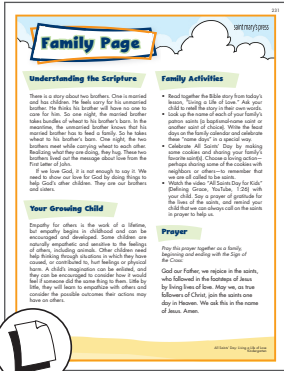




Go! (10 minutes)

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Recall the lesson goals by asking the following questions:
 - Who followed Jesus? (*the saints*)
 - Who lived their lives in love? (*the saints*)
 - Who can imitate Jesus and the saints and live lives of love? (*We can!*)
- Remind the children to take the child's page home.
- Distribute the family page, and encourage the children to share it at home. You may want to staple the child's page and the family page together as the children are getting ready to leave.



Also available in full color in both English and Spanish at www.smp.org/discover_kindergarten_p

Closing Prayer

- Begin by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross.
- Sing the first verse of the song "When the Saints Go Marching In." Ask the children to repeat each line after you. Then sing the entire verse together. You may want to sing it several times as you march around the room.
 - when the saints go marching in,
 - when the saints go marching in,
 - Lord, I want to be in that number,
 - when the saints go marching in.
- Close with the Sign of the Cross.

Activity Ideas

Materials Needed

- copies of the handout “Future Saint Crown,” on page 230 of the catechist guide, one for each child
- black and yellow crayons
- scissors, one pair for each child
- a stapler
- additional strips of 2-x-8-inch paper to lengthen the band if needed
- a computer with internet access
- a computer projector

Materials Needed

- green construction paper leaves with a hole punched in one end, three for each child
- a tree branch stuck in a pail of sand with the name Jesus written on a small piece of paper and taped to the base of the branch
- clear tape
- a hole punch
- string (*optional*)

Future Saints’ Crowns

- Explain that a crown is a sign of power and victory. Comment that we sometimes think of the saints in Heaven as wearing crowns. Tell the children they will make crowns for themselves, as future saints. Share that the word *future* means “the days to come after today.”
- Tell the children that each one of us can be a saint in the future if we live a life of love today.
- Distribute the handout, crayons, and scissors. Ask the children to write their name on the line on the crown in black crayon. Help them as needed.
- Invite the children to color the crown yellow, and then to cut out the long band and the crown.
- Help the children staple one end of the long band to the crown. Hold the crown to each child’s head and staple the other end of the band to the crown so that the crown encircles each child’s head securely. Use additional 2-x-8-inch strips of paper to further lengthen the band if necessary for some children.
- Play a video or song for “When the Saints Go Marching In.” One suggestion is “When the Saints Go Marching In | Christian Songs for Kids” (YouTube, 2:15). Other arrangements are available on YouTube.
- Ask the children to put on their crowns, and then lead them in a march around the room several times. Encourage them to clap to the music.

A Future Saint Tree

- Distribute the green construction paper leaves. Ask the children to write their name on one leaf.
- Explain that they will be making a future saint tree, and that these leaves will help them become saints.
- Tell them that every time they do something nice for someone else, they may put one of their leaves on the tree by sliding it on a branch. (If the branch is too large, you may need to attach string to each leaf so the leaves can hang.)
- Ask the children to think of one nice thing they did for someone today or yesterday. Direct them each to put the leaf with their name on the tree.
- Collect the extra leaves, and keep them near the tree for future use. Or ask the children to take their extra leaves home as reminders to do good things for others.
- Point out the name of Jesus near the base of the tree. Remind the children that Jesus is our strong tree, and when we do good for others, we are growing strong in him.
- Explain that the leaves also remind us that we are attached to Jesus, and we can become saints if we live with kindness and love.

Materials Needed

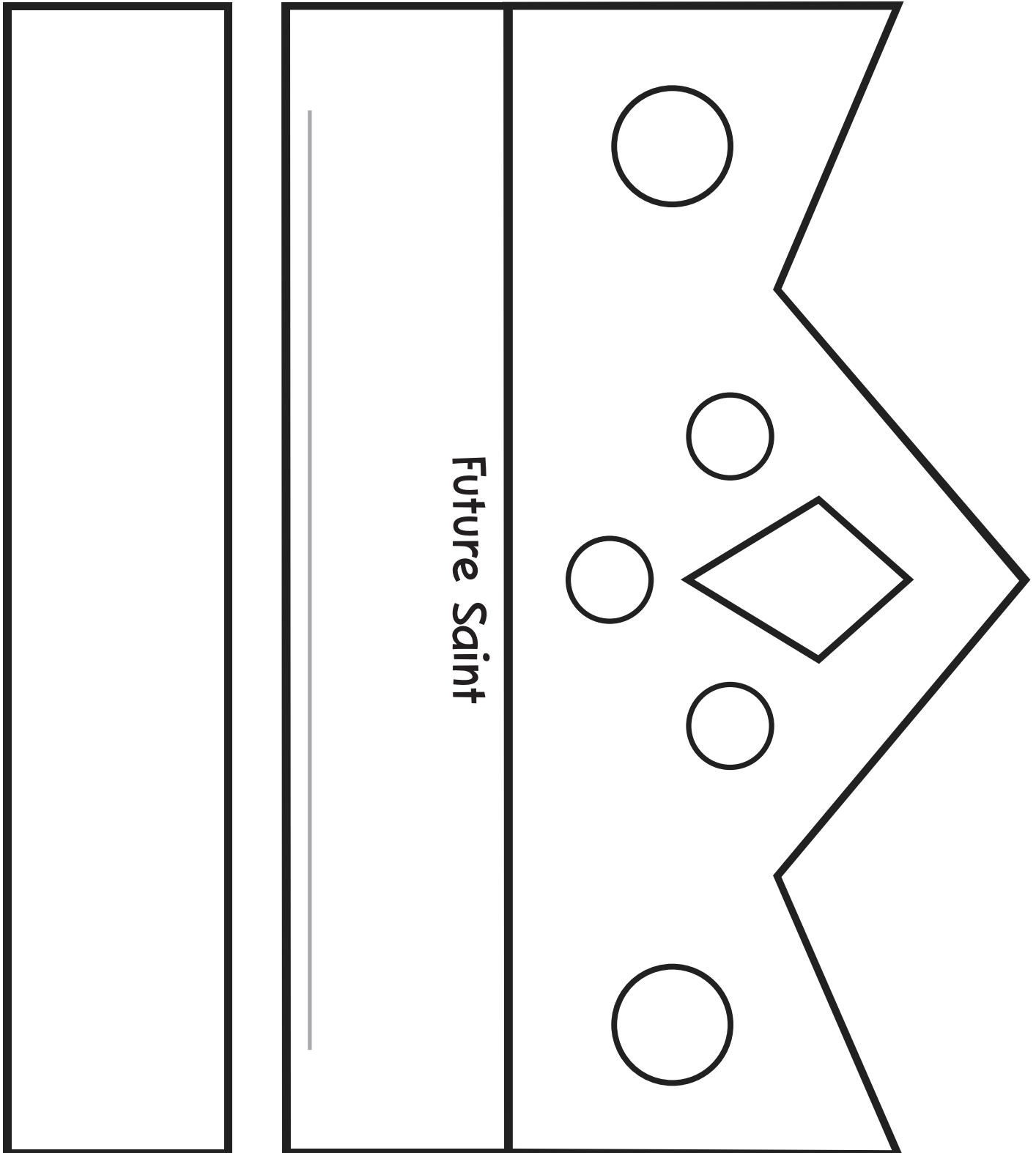
- several small pictures of various saints (holy cards or pictures cut from catalogs, etc.)

All Saints Hide and Seek

- Explain to the children that they will be playing a game with the saints.
- Tell them you will hide a picture of a saint somewhere in the room, and they will look for it. Comment that this game is called "All Saints Hide and Seek."
- Show the children a picture of one of the saints. Ask them to close their eyes while you hide the picture somewhere in the room, at the children's eye level or below.
- Ask the children to open their eyes, and invite them to look for the picture when you say, "Go!" The child who finds it can be asked to sit for the next round to allow others a better chance to find the next picture.
- Continue in this way. Alternatively, you might want to show two or three pictures at once, enabling more children to find a picture and helping the game to move a little faster.
- Allow the children to keep the pictures they find. If any children do not find a picture, keep some in reserve to give to these children at the end of the game.
- Conclude by reminding the children that there are many, many saints, and that today's game involved just a few of them. Invite the children to take their pictures home to remind them that this saint and all saints are in Heaven helping them.

Future Saint Crown

Write your name on the crown. Then color it and cut along the dark lines. Your teacher will help you fit the crown to your head.



Family Page

Understanding the Scripture

There is a story about two brothers. One is married and has children. He feels sorry for his unmarried brother. He thinks his brother will have no one to care for him. So one night, the married brother takes bundles of wheat to his brother's barn. In the meantime, the unmarried brother knows that his married brother has to feed a family. So he takes wheat to his brother's barn. One night, the two brothers meet while carrying wheat to each other. Realizing what they are doing, they hug. These two brothers lived out the message about love from the First Letter of John.

If we love God, it is not enough to say it. We need to show our love for God by doing things to help God's other children. They are our brothers and sisters.

Your Growing Child

Empathy for others is the work of a lifetime, but empathy begins in childhood and can be encouraged and developed. Some children are naturally empathetic and sensitive to the feelings of others, including animals. Other children need help thinking through situations in which they have caused, or contributed to, hurt feelings or physical harm. A child's imagination can be enlisted, and they can be encouraged to consider how it would feel if someone did the same thing to them. Little by little, they will learn to empathize with others and consider the possible outcomes their actions may have on others.

Family Activities

- Read together the Bible story from today's lesson, "Living a Life of Love." Ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- Look up the name of each of your family's patron saints (a baptismal-name saint or another saint of choice). Write the feast days on the family calendar and celebrate these "name days" in a special way.
- Celebrate All Saints' Day by making some cookies and sharing your family's favorite saint(s). Choose a loving action—perhaps sharing some of the cookies with neighbors or others—to remember that we are all called to be saints.
- Watch the video "All Saints Day for Kids" (Defining Grace, YouTube, 1:26) with your child. Say a prayer of gratitude for the lives of the saints, and remind your child that we can always call on the saints in prayer to help us.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross:

God our Father, we rejoice in the saints, who followed in the footsteps of Jesus by living lives of love. May we, as true followers of Christ, join the saints one day in Heaven. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.