

## All Saints' Day: We Celebrate Those Who Went Before Us

### FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson is designed to help the kids think about how Jesus has defeated death and therefore we will be reunited in the Resurrection with those who have gone before us.

Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

**FIRST ACTIVITY:** Ask the kids if anyone they loved has died - let younger kids include pets if they want to. Ask everyone to draw a picture of someone they miss who has died. If any children can't think of someone, have them draw a picture of Jesus. Explain to the kids that people who believe in Jesus are called "saints" and that today, on All Saints' Day, we celebrate the lives of all the believers who have gone before us and are now with Jesus in heaven. Long ago the word for "saint" was "hallow," so this was "All Hallow's Day." That means the night before would be "All Hallow's Eve," or as we know it today: Halloween.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Hebrews 2:10-15. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

*10In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." 13And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." 14Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

**PRIMARY LESSON:** Jesus is our older brother and his Father in heaven is our Father. Jesus has conquered death so that even though we know that Jesus will resurrect us so we can live forever with him and his Father.

**SECOND ACTIVITY:** Explain to the kids that long ago, before Jesus came, people were afraid of death and thought that ghosts would really come and get them. So they made up a holiday to try to trick the ghosts into not getting them by wearing costumes as disguises. When people learned the truth that Jesus has conquered

death they kept the holiday and renamed it Halloween, but now it became a fun celebration of the fact that death can't separate us from our Father in heaven.

On Halloween we have fun because we know Jesus has conquered death and we're not afraid anymore. Then, on All Saints' Day (today), we remember the people we love who have died and look forward to seeing them again in the Resurrection.

Have the kids go back to the earlier pictures they drew and now draw the person (or pet) they loved, who died, surrounded by the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Any kids who drew a picture of Jesus should now add the Father and the Holy Spirit to their picture.

**NOTE TO THE TEACHER:** Will pets be in heaven? Even though the Bible doesn't address this subject specifically, it does say that "everything on earth" has been reconciled to the Father in Jesus (Col. 1:20). Therefore, it safe to assume that our pets will be part of the "new heaven and new earth" (Rev. 21:1).

**PRAYER:** For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to conquer death so that we don't have to be afraid of death anymore. Jesus, thank you for being willing to die with us so that we can live forever with you. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that our Father in heaven has given us eternal life in Jesus and help us to have happy memories of those we love that have died and to believe that we will see them again. In Jesus' name, Amen.