



The Word @ Home

All Saints' Sunday
Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

The Point

Jesus turns our expectations of blessings upside-down.

Key Verse

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
– Matthew 5:9

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

In this portion of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, we hear a list of beatitudes, or blessings. This lesson does not seem to make sense. Jesus tells the people that those among them who are poor in spirit, who mourn, who are meek and merciful and pure in heart, who desire righteousness and peace, and who are persecuted are the people who are blessed. Yet it is in these times of challenge and despair that we are called closer to God; when God works through us, comforts us, and holds us tightly.

First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

In a vision, people representing the full diversity of humankind stand before God's throne, holy through the work of the Lamb of God, with the promise of the end of suffering and hardship.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

God loves God's people beyond anything that we can understand. We are God's beloved children, and we have the promise that the best is yet to come.

Seasons & Festivals

Today is All Saints' Sunday. This is the Sunday in which we remember and give thanks for all the saints of the church. We celebrate the famous saints in history as well as all the people, in this world and the next, made holy by God. We specifically remember those people who have died and now live with God who have been instrumental in our own faith development and that of the church. On this day, especially, we recognize that all saints across time are joined together in our faith story.

Discussion Starters

- Share the name of one person who has been a saint in your life. What have they taught you about God?
- Which of the beatitudes is the most surprising to you? Why?
- Make a goal to be a peacemaker this week to someone in your family, at school, or at work.

Prayer of the Week

God, thank you for the people who have taught us about you. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Matthew 5:1-12 Jesus shares the Beatitudes during the Sermon on the Mount. Choose one of the beatitudes and be intentional about being a blessing to someone during the week.

Monday

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 Become imitators of God's church. Name one way that you can imitate God's church.

Tuesday

Read Acts 13:1-12 Barnabas and Saul are sent out. When you conclude your devotions together, lay hands on each other and "send each other out" by praying for each person.

Wednesday

Read Matthew 15:1-9 Jesus challenges tradition. Wash your hands while you read this passage. Why are some traditions important?

Thursday

Read Joshua 5:10-22 God continues to provide for God's people. Eat bread together while you talk about ways that God has provided for you.

Friday

Read Psalm 78:1-7 The ancestors share lessons with us. What is one thing that you have learned from someone older than you?

Saturday

Read Matthew 24:1-14 The temple will be destroyed. Share a time when you knew God was with you, even though you were afraid.



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
God blesses you to bless others.