

The Feast of All Souls, Cycle A

Focus: When we give up our lives we gain eternal life.

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good morning everyone, my name is _____. *Last week we heard about God's two greatest commandments. Does anybody remember what they were? Love God with all your heart & love your neighbor as yourself.*

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

Dear Father, we know your love will never leave us. May your word take root in our hearts, so that we may love as Jesus does. We ask this through you son, Jesus.

Amen.

Song/Movement (can hand out attendance stickers at this time)

"The fruit of the spirit" Track #17, From Hide em in Your Heart vol 2.

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit.

Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step, keep in step with the spirit.

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
The fruit of the spirit is faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step, keep in step with the spirit. 2X

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Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the Bible.*

God, nothing can take us from your love. We belong to you.

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *What do you think this means? We are all God's children and he will always love us no matter what.*

Gospel Story

Say: Today we are reading from the Gospel of **John**.

Have children make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying,
"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."

Read: (Show the picture of the bushels of wheat)

Filename: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

One day Jesus told his friends a special story about a grain of wheat. He said, a single grain of wheat can not multiply until it dies. After it dies it will go away and not be seen for a while, but; while it is in the ground it will turn to many seeds. The seeds will then grow into new grains of wheat.

Jesus used this special story to help his friends understand why he had to die. God sent Jesus down for all of us. Jesus taught us how to love God and love others, but Jesus needed to die, just like the grain of wheat. Jesus came back to his friends after he rose from the dead, just like the new grains of wheat. He showed us all that we will come back and live forever. He sent his friends out to tell all the world about God's love. Now, look at all the people in our church that believe in Jesus. His one grain of wheat gave us new life in God's love, as followers of Jesus.

What are some ways we can give up some time in our own lives to help God's kingdom grow? Can you think of anyone that gives up some of there time to help others?

How else does a grain of wheat feed people? *It gets ground down and turned into bread. We need food to live, just as we need God's love to feed our hearts.*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus wants us to know that by giving up our life we gain eternal life. This can be like the grain of wheat that grows into many or the grain that is ground in to flour and made into bread. The grain gives life by losing its own. As we give of our own lives, we are sharing in the life of God and gaining eternal life.

Gospel Activity

See the Filler Options Sheet if you need more activities.

Does anybody know what Feast we are celebrating today? Today we celebrate All Souls Day. It's a day when we remember all those that have died and gone to Heaven. It can be someone we loved or it can be someone that has given their life to God by believing in him and following him.

We are going to celebrate this day and those that we love by putting their names up on this poster board and then, we will offer a special prayer for all those that we have remembered.

After the children have given a name, have them bow their heads and read;

Lord, thank you for the special people you put in our lives that have now gone to Heaven. Please bless them and show them your peace and love. Amen.

Complete the weekly bulletin –let the children color them if there is extra time.

Closing Prayer**(Children respond: “We believe!”)****Ask:** Do we believe in God, *who is raised Jesus from death to life so that we may live forever?*Do we believe in Jesus, *who like the grain of wheat shows us the way to love as God loves.*Do we believe in the Holy Spirit, *who fills our hearts with love and life that will never end??***Sending Forth:****Say:** Let’s go this week and try to remember to that God loves us no matter what and let’s try to give up some of our time in our lives for others.**Lining Up/Closing Song***Play: “Jesus loves me” track # 21 from [25 Sunday School Songs](#)*

while children put away any materials and line up. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.

Wheat Bushels



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