

- I. Today, instead of just teaching my 2nd and 3rd graders, I get to teach the adults and the kids. But that doesn't mean you kids won't still earn something. So kids, whenever you hear the word, "Saint" I want you to raise your hand. Are you ready?
- II. Today is All Saint's Day. When most people hear the word Saint they think of those who have been canonized as saints by the church. Old men and women who have done exceptional things and are recognized by the church as special. There is Saint Peter, and Saint Paul, Saint Andrew, of course and Saint Catherine. Saint Theresa, and Saint Athanasius. There are saints from all countries. But today, I want to talk about the saints that won't be recorded in any history book, but who are recorded in the greatest book of all- The Bible.
- III. The word Saint in the Bible means a person who is set apart, or made holy by God. Saint's aren't great because of what they do on their own- they are great because God chose them to be set apart – sanctified- by Him. Deuteronomy is the first place in the Bible that the word saint is mentioned. In Deuteronomy 33, the "people who love God" are called "holy ones in His hand." The people God loves are the saints. That's one way to be a saint- is be loved by God. After the Old Testament era, Jesus the Savior comes and makes disciples to follow Him. These followers, known as Christians, became the next group of people that are called saints.
- IV. The apostle Paul wrote most of the books in the New Testament. These books are known as epistles because they are letters written to groups of Christians in a specific area. In the beginning of these letters, Paul addresses the groups of people as saints. And what did they do to be honored with the title saint? They were loved by God and followed Christ. Saints are people who are loved by God, and saints are people that love God in return. One of the ways saints show their love to God is by talking to him through prayer.
- V. In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, the future is revealed to Saint John. He gets caught up into heaven and he sees what happen there. One of the things that John sees is people and creatures holding golden bowls [HOLD UP PROP] full of incense. But it's not really incense- it is the prayers of the

saints! Whenever the saints pray to God, it is like a sweet smelling offering. God loves the smells that they prayers of the saints make. So we see that even in heaven the job of saints is to be loved by God, and to love God back, and to love God by talking to Him through prayer.

VI. Today, is All Saints Day, and we commemorate the saints of the past- those in Deuteronomy and the Epistles, and everyone who has passed on to heaven before us, and we the saints of the present – that’s you and me and anyone else who is loved by God, and loves God back and loves God by talking to him through prayer, and we look forward to being saints in the future, when we get to go to heaven and spend eternity being loved by God, and loving God back.

**You kids have been very attentive, and I want to let you know that you can stop raising your hand when people say the word saint, starting right now.

And now I’d like to introduce Austin Harshbarger who will be reading a poem about All Saints Day.