

## Resource Sheet for All Soul's Day:

1. Introduction
2. Icebreaker game
3. YouTube clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLGwUX8VExo&t=31s> (2mins 28secs)
4. Activity

Introduce All Souls Day with these or similar words: Halloween, All Hallows Eve or the Eve of All Saints Day, is an excellent prelude to All Souls Day, which is celebrated on November 2nd every year. Halloween gives us an opportunity to make fun of death.



Skeletons, monsters, and scary characters from movies are the subjects of many Halloween costumes. Wearing these costumes in a spirit of fun is a good way to put death and fear in their proper places. While death and fear are both real and can be serious, neither death nor fear have power over the love of Christ. Love gives us the power to look death in the face and laugh, rather than cower in fear.



### Ice Breaker:

Let's play a little Halloween game. Split up into groups of 4 and one person at the table writes 4 things associated with Halloween but doesn't show the others. Everyone else at the table is going to try to guess what is on the list by taking turns asking yes/no questions. Every question counts for one point. The table with the fewest points at the end of the game wins. Each person takes a turn asking a yes/no question. For example, you may ask if the thing is an animal or if the thing has ever appeared in a movie, etc. After you have asked your question, you may take a guess, but if you guess incorrectly, your table adds one point to their score. After you have asked your question and guessed the answer (or decided not to guess) the person next to you takes a turn. This continues until someone correctly

guesses the thing on the list. Then you go to the next thing on the list and begin the questioning again with the person next to the one who guessed correctly. The person holding the list keeps score as the game progresses.

### **Exploration of the concept of death.**

How many of you think you will die someday? Ask for a show of hands. Isn't it interesting that every person in the world will experience death someday, but we spend so little time talking about it or intentionally planning for it?

Death is coming whether we're ready or not. In truth, it could come tomorrow, or next week, or next month or not for another fifty years or more; but make no mistake about it – it's coming to all of us, just as surely as it has come to those who have gone before us.

Before you all run out of the room because you think this is going to be a real downer of a session, let me say this: Death doesn't have to be scary. In fact, for a Christian, the day of your death may be the most important day of your future. Death is your entry into eternal life. For Christians, death is just one more change, albeit a big change, on the path of life – a



path that never ends.

All Souls Day is the day that the Church sets aside every year to help us express our belief that in death life does not end, it only changes. We also believe that the bonds of love that bind us to each other in this life do not unravel when one of us dies. We stay connected, and it is Jesus Christ who keeps us connected. On All Souls Day, we pray for those who have died, and as we pray for them, we are reminded that one day we too shall die. "The wise person prepares for the day of death." (Sirach 1:11)

### **Watch this short YouTube clip about All Souls Day:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLGwUX8VExo&t=31s> (2mins 28secs)

### **Our deceased loved ones:**

We believe that the bonds of love that unite us in this life do not unravel at death. In other words, we continue to love and care for our family members and friends even after they die, and they continue to love and care for us. We are in communion with each other even after one of us dies. God, who is the God of the living and the dead, is the medium through which we commune with each other. We express our love and concern for them by praying for them.

### **Activity:**

One way that we remember loved ones who have passed away is using memorial cards. It is very common to visit a funeral home and find a stack of memorial cards available for those who would like to take a small token remembrance with them after they pay their respects. Some people carry these cards with them all the time and use them as reminders to

continue to pray for deceased loved ones. Others keep them in a special place at home. Today we will begin by making memorial cards in honour of our loved ones who have passed away. Give each student a plain index card, a sheet with some appropriate scripture quotes and markers.

Invite students to create a card for a friend or family member who is deceased. The card should consist of pictures or symbolic representations of things the person enjoyed or things that express the person's gifts. The person's name should appear on the holy card. Each person may select a scripture quote from the Holy Card Scripture handout to use on the holy card.

Invite the group to keep this person in mind as they journey throughout the day. It can be displayed at home and a candle lit in front of it. Suggest to the students that on All Soul's Day they can light a candle and display the card in a special place at home.



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