

**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



**Series: The Way, Living like a Saint**

It is that time of year we all love; the leaves are changing, the weather is crisp and cool, the kids are picking and carving pumpkins. And it's time to talk church finances!!!! It may also be that time of year we like to avoid or turn the radio station when the giving campaign comes on. That's right; the money talk. But what if this year, when we talk about stewardship, we talk about it with the saints? What if we look back to our shared church history to some faith leaders who patterned their life in such a way that their gratitude, generosity, and joy simply overflowed? What can they teach us today about our own generosity?

Join us for this October as we celebrate the witness of the saints and discover how a few we may not know lived their lives with joyful obedience and generosity. And may we be inspired to "go and do likewise."

**Message description:**

All Saints Day is a tradition in the life of the church when we celebrate the saints who went before us and set the example of faithful living. We are part of the communion of saints currently, both living and passed as we are surrounded by those who love and encourage us in the faith. Today is a day to remember that we are not alone. We give thanks for the great saints who have gone before us and instruct us on how to offer ourselves as holy and living sacrifices for the glory of Christ; people who have given of themselves by ways of necessity, surrender, generosity, and influence. May we recognize the place we hold in the company of saints; may we allow them to spur us on to love and good deeds, and may we witnesses to Jesus Christ with our love and lives in our own circles of influence.

**Key Scriptures**

*Hebrews 11-12:2*

**For Further Study:**

To learn more about Mary McLeod Bethune, check-out: <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mary-mcleod-bethune> and <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/mary-mcleod-bethune>

## Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. Who are some people who have shaped your life and faith today? Asked another way, who would be in your faith photo book?
2. How do they inspire you to offer yourself as a holy and living sacrifice today?
3. How does it make you feel to know that you are part of the communion of saints right now?
4. Were you familiar with the story of Mary McLeod Bethune prior to the teaching? What did you appreciate about her story?
5. Who do you consider part of your circle of influence?
6. In our membership vows, we commit to serving this church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. What do you think it means to offer your witness as a way of giving? What could that look like in your life?

## Going Deeper:

Read the opening to the following letters from Paul:

*Romans 1:1-7*

*1 Corinthians 1:1-3*

*2 Corinthians 1:1-2*

*Ephesians 1:1-2*

*Philippians 1:1-2*

*Colossians 1:1-2*

- What do you notice about how these communities are addressed?
- Does this change how you read or understand these letters from Paul and his instructions to them?
- How can our church receive these same letters as instructions for holy living as saints today?
- Do you believe we are called to be living saints?

## Commitment card:

- Close the month on stewardship together by praying over the church, our leaders, our mission, and our neighbors.
- As of Friday, 10.28.22, we have received 25 commitment cards which covers 42% of the approved budget for 2023. Pray over these commitments, that they would be offerings of praise and thanksgiving and that God would multiply them for the furtherance of God's Kingdom here. Pray that all commitments, no matter the size, would reflect a spiritual offering of trust in God that God will provide for us always. **Remember, we are members of the unshakeable Kingdom of heaven. The Kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are we.**
- How can your group support, encourage, and hold each other accountable to fulfilling your commitment?