

Short Talk

(SHT219)

**You are part of a
very big family**

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “You are part of a very big family”

Aim of Short talk: To encourage Christians to follow in the footsteps of the “saints” who have gone before them, and to allow the memory of the saints’ faith to spur them on to keep going through hard times.

Use of Short talk: This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.

Main themes: All Saints Day, Family, Faith, Suffering, Perseverance

Biblical references: Matthew 5:1-12, Romans 1:7, 1Corinthians 1:2, 1Peter 2:9

Lectionary: Year A – All Saints Day

Props: You need a way to project pictures 1 and 2 from the Appendix.

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I wonder how many Christians there are in your class at school,

- or in your year at University,
- or at the place where you work,
- or in your extended family.

There may not be many Christians at all where you live or work, and it can be hard following Jesus when you think that there are very few people walking in the same direction as you are.

- It can be a bit like looking at this iceberg (*Show picture 1 from the Appendix*) and seeing only the bit above sea level.

However, on this All Saints Day, we are reminded that billions of followers of Jesus have gone before us.

- We may not be able to see them now, but they have walked in the same direction as we are now walking.
- With Jesus’ help, they have followed Him faithfully day by day, and have served Him until the end of their lives.

Imagine that all the followers of Jesus who have gone before us are like the underside of the iceberg. (*Show picture 2 from the Appendix*)

- Can you see from the picture of the iceberg that you and I are part of a very very large family that stretches back over 2000 years to Jesus and His first followers?
- Some of our Christian family we can see now, whereas a large part of the family we can’t see now but we will see one day when we are living with God together.

Now these followers of Jesus who have gone before us are sometimes called “Saints” or “holy ones,” as the Bible calls them. (See: Romans 1:7, 1Corinthians 1:2, 1Peter 2:9)

- In fact, the word “Saint” or “holy one” is a word that describes all followers of Jesus, so we too are saints!

One of the things that can help us when we are feeling alone or when we are suffering for our faith, is to remember that the followers of Jesus who have gone before us also suffered at different times in their lives.

- They, like us, experienced trials of all different kinds.
- Many of them had to cope with people being unkind to them, insulting them and lying about them, just as Jesus said it would happen to His followers. (Matthew 5:11)

Be encouraged that these saints kept going with Jesus’ help, and they are cheering us on to keep going with Jesus’ help too.

Appendix – Pictures of an Iceberg

Picture 1: An iceberg seen from the surface of the sea



Picture 2: An iceberg seen both from the surface and beneath the sea

