

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9TH

**3rd Before Advent
and**

Remembrance Sunday



Readings

2 Thessalonians 2 verses 1-5 & 13 – 17

Luke 20 verses 27 – 38

God of love, bless those whose heads are filled with questions,
and those whose hearts are filled with longing. Give them confidence in asking, and
joy in finding out. **Amen.**

and

Remembrance Sunday



We honour the service
and sacrifice of our
Armed Forces community.



Today we remember all those who gave their lives for others.
We remember those who give their love for us.
Help us to be willing givers.
Amen.

A version of the story for very young children

Let the children choose a puppet/play figure to play the part of Jesus and others for the Sadducees, who then take turns to ask Jesus a question, as you share the story.

One day, some people came to Jesus to ask him some big questions.

They did not recognise who Jesus was, but they wanted to hear what he would say.

‘Tell us about marriage,’ they said.

‘What happens if a person gets married, and then they die – are they still married?’

‘Will we have husbands and wives in heaven?’ they asked.

They asked big questions – hard to answer and to understand.

Jesus said to them, ‘It isn’t easy to answer these questions because God isn’t like that.

You are asking questions about worldly things.

God sees things differently to how you see things here.’

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Say: You know what a riddle is, don't you? It is a word puzzle -- a question that makes you think. Sometimes riddles are funny. I'm sure you have probably heard this one. "Why did the chicken cross the road?" The answer is, "To get to the other side." Here are a few more.

Q: Mary's father has 4 children; three are named Nana, Nene, and Nini. What is the fourth child's name?

A: Mary! (You may have to explain!)

Q: How many months have 28 days?

A: All of them! (Some may have 30 or 31, but all have 28!)

Q: What is full of holes but can still hold water?

A: A sponge! (You might show them one!)

Riddles have been around since the time of Jesus. Maybe longer than that. One day, Jesus was approached by a group of Sadducees — religious leaders who did not believe in the resurrection or the happiness of heaven.

The Sadducees were trying to trick Jesus into agreeing that there was no resurrection. They asked him to answer this riddle: "The law of Moses says that if a man dies, leaving a wife but no children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother's name. Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children. So the second brother married the widow, but he also died. Then the third brother married her. This continued until all seven brothers had married the same

woman. Finally, the woman also died. So tell us, whose wife will she be after the resurrection since all seven were married to her!"

My, that is a tricky riddle, isn't it? Listen to Jesus' answer.

Jesus said, "Marriage is for people here on earth. But in the age to come, those who are raised from the dead will not marry or be married. Not only that, but they will never die again. They will live forever as the children of God."

After Jesus answered their riddle so wisely, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Now, you and I know that Jesus promised us that if we love him and trust in him, we will live forever in heaven with him. Isn't it sad that some people do not believe there is a resurrection and eternal life in heaven? Oh, that reminds me of one more riddle!

Q. Why were the people in today's Bible lesson called Sadducees?

A. Since they didn't believe in the resurrection or the happiness of heaven, they were "Sad, you see!"

Pray: Dear Father, we are happy today that you have promised us eternal life in heaven. Thank you that heaven is going to be amazing! In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Stop and share

- Can you remember a silly question you've been asked?
- Do we always need to know the answers to questions?
- Who are the people Jesus is talking about here?

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Lightbulb moments

Grow a symbol of resurrection

Plant a bulb and talk about how the bulb reminds us of resurrection.

Life can be hard if there's no peace. New words to 'Make me a channel of your peace'

Life can be hard if there's no peace,
When things don't go your way and you're unsure.
But don't forget that Jesus is your friend,
Ask him questions, listen to his voice.

*O Jesus be my rock inside the storm,
When shaken and unsure where I should go,
Hold me tight within your love where I am safe
And surround me with your peace and calm.*

Talk together

- How does it feel to be asked a question you don't know the answer to?
- What can we learn from how Jesus answered the Sadducees question?
- How can asking questions help us to learn more about God?

Riddle me this

Appreciate that sometimes the answer to a riddle is really simple

You will need: printer or pen and paper. Look on computer or in a book for riddles.

- Print off or write out some of the riddles that are suitable for your group.
- Have fun guessing the answers – if you have a large group, you could split them into mixed age teams.
- Ask: Do the group know any riddles? Are riddles fun or frustrating? How do they think Jesus felt when the Sadducees asked him their riddle?

With questions we grow

Asking uncomfortable questions can help us grow in faith

You will need: paper, pens, cups, water beads/balls that expand in water; water.

- Cut paper to a height and width that will line the inside of a cup. Invite the young people to write uncomfortable questions they have about God, the Bible, being a Christian, on their piece of paper and place them inside.
- Put some expanding water beads/balls in the bottom of each cup. Invite the young people to give these questions to God. Pour water on the balls then, as they expand, reflect on how these questions will help their faith to grow.

Ask me a question

You will need: pieces of paper with question marks on them.

- Put out the pieces of paper with question marks in a pile. Tell the children that any time during the morning/day, if they want to know something, or don't understand something, they can get a piece of paper with a question mark on it, hand it to the leader and ask their question.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The grilling

- Prepare some tough questions for the young people to answer as appropriate for your group. Here are some suggestions: Describe yourself in three words. Do you think young people have it easier today? Would you rather have hands for feet or feet for hands? Give them the chance to ask you some tough questions back.

Do not be afraid to ask questions – it is how we learn



Can you answer this riddle?

I am the world's bestselling book
But 66 books are inside me
I am the book that you would read
To learn about Christianity

Remembrance Day Poems

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
**WE SHALL NOT SLEEP,
THOUGH POPPIES GROW
IN FLANDERS FIELDS.**



We Shall Keep the Faith by Moira Michael

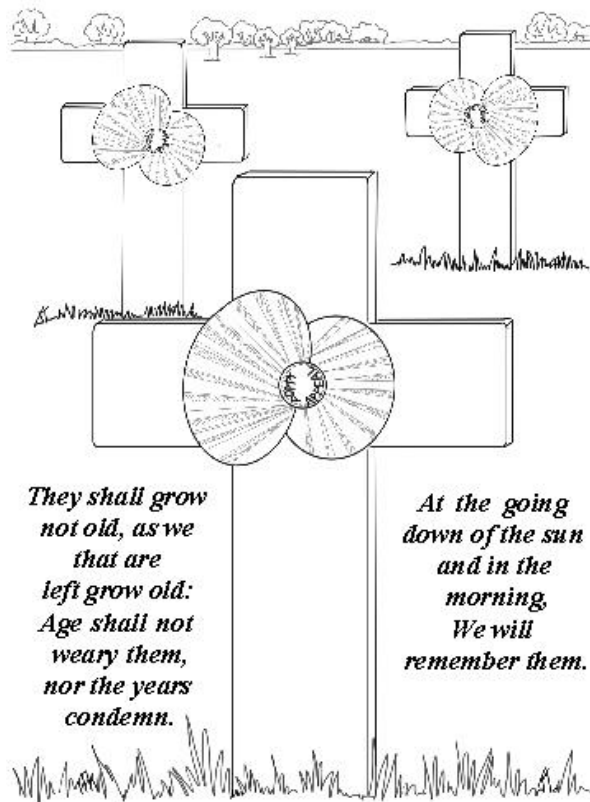
Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.



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Colour the picture above

Today we remember all those who gave their lives for others.
We remember those who give their love for us.
Help us to be willing givers.

Amen.

Activities for Remembrance

Make a poppy with some red tissue and a black button for the middle and a green leaf fixed to be on the angle at 11 of a clock (imagine a clock face). Put it in your window or a place of prominence to remind other people.

Sit quietly and think about people who served our country in the wars and gave us the freedom we enjoy today. Give thanks for this.

Read the poems on the previous page

Make your own Remembrance poster and put in your window

Make something you think would interest people for Remembrance Day