

Anglican Saints Curriculum Grades 4th-8th

Craft Project Addendum

Table of Contents

WEEK 1 — ST. STEPHEN.....	4
CRAFT 1 — “FORGIVE” PAINTED STONE	4
CRAFT 2 — WITNESS FLAME GLASS LANTERN	5
CRAFT 3 — BROKEN-TO-BEAUTIFUL FORGIVENESS CROSS.....	6
CRAFT 4 — “STAND AS A WITNESS” CANVAS ART	7
EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. STEPHEN “LIGHT OF WITNESS” MOSAIC	9
JOURNALING — ST. STEPHEN	11
WEEK 2 — ST. ALBAN.....	13
CRAFT 1 — ST. ALBAN ROMAN MOSAIC CROSS.....	13
CRAFT 2 — “GREATER LOVE” SHELTER HOUSE	14
CRAFT 3 — COURAGE CORD CROSS.....	15
CRAFT 4 — ST. ALBAN CELTIC CROSS PAINTING	16
EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. ALBAN ILLUMINATED “GREATER LOVE” PLAQUE	17
JOURNALING — ST. ALBAN	18
WEEK 3 — ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY	20
CRAFT 1 — MISSIONARY COMPASS	20
CRAFT 2 — CANTERBURY STAINED-GLASS WINDOW	21
CRAFT 3 — WALKING WITNESS SANDAL.....	22
CRAFT 4 — BUILD A MISSION CHURCH	23
EXTENDED CRAFT — AUGUSTINE'S MISSION JOURNEY SHADOW BOX	24
JOURNALING — ST. AUGUSTINE	25
WEEK 4 — ST. COLUMBA OF IONA.....	26
CRAFT 1 — ILLUMINATED SCRIPTURE LETTER	26
CRAFT 2 — IONA CORACLE BOAT.....	27
CRAFT 3 — CELTIC KNOT CROSS	28
CRAFT 4 — “CLEAN HEART” CLAY HEART	29
EXTENDED CRAFT — IONA CELTIC CROSS MOSAIC	30
JOURNALING — ST. COLUMBA	31

WEEK 5 — ST. AIDAN OF LINDISFARNE	33
CRAFT 1 — WALKING WITH CHRIST STEPPINGSTONE.....	33
CRAFT 2 — LINDISFARNE SEA-GLASS CROSS.....	34
CRAFT 3 — “LISTEN FIRST” TALKING STICK.....	35
CRAFT 4 — ILLUMINATED LINDISFARNE CROSS	36
EXTENDED CRAFT — LINDISFARNE HOLY ISLAND DIORAMA	37
JOURNALING — ST. AIDAN.....	38
WEEK 6 — ST. PATRICK OF IRELAND	39
CRAFT 1 — CLAY TRINITY SHAMROCK BOWL.....	39
CRAFT 2 — ST. PATRICK CELTIC KNOT BRACELET	40
CRAFT 3 — “OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD” WOODEN SHIELD	41
CRAFT 4 — PATRICK’S MISSION SAILBOAT.....	42
EXTENDED CRAFT — CELTIC TRINITY STRING ART	42
JOURNALING — ST. PATRICK.....	44
WEEK 7 — ST. BENEDICT OF NURSIA	45
CRAFT 1 — PRAYER BEAD CROSS	45
CRAFT 2 — RULE OF LIFE WOODEN WHEEL	46
CRAFT 3 — MONASTIC HERB GARDEN	47
CRAFT 4 — MONASTERY DOOR HANGING.....	47
EXTENDED CRAFT — MY PERSONAL RULE OF LIFE PLAQUE.....	48
JOURNALING — ST. BENEDICT.....	50
WEEK 8 — ST. GEORGE.....	50
CRAFT 1 — FOLDED & PAINTED PAPER DRAGON.....	51
CRAFT 2 — ST. GEORGE CROSS FLAG	52
CRAFT 3 — ARMOR OF FAITH BRACER.....	52
CRAFT 4 — COURAGE BATTLE STANDARD.....	53
EXTENDED CRAFT — DRAGON & CROSS RELIEF ART	54
JOURNALING — ST. GEORGE	55
WEEK 9 — ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI	56
CRAFT 1 — ST. FRANCIS BIRD FEEDER	57
CRAFT 2 — PRESSED CREATION CROSS.....	58
CRAFT 3 — CLAY CREATION MEDALLIONS	58
CRAFT 4 — SIMPLE TREASURE BAG	59

EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. FRANCIS CREATION MOSAIC GARDEN CROSS	61
JOURNALING — ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI	62
WEEK 10 — ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND	63
CRAFT 1 — ST. MARGARET MERCY CROWN	63
CRAFT 2 — BREAD OF COMPASSION CLOTH BAG	64
CRAFT 3 — CELTIC SERVICE KNOT	65
CRAFT 4 — SERVANT LEADERSHIP CANDLE JAR	66
EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. MARGARET SERVICE BOX.....	67
JOURNALING — ST. MARGARET	68
WEEK 11 — ST. JOSEPH	68
ST. JOSEPH — FAITHFUL & OBEDIENT.....	69
CRAFT 2 — JOSEPH'S TOOLBOX	70
CRAFT 3 — “GOD GUIDES MY STEPS” WOOD-BURN LOOK PLAQUE.....	71
CRAFT 4 — HOLY FAMILY SHELTER	72
EXTENDED CRAFT — CARPENTER'S STRING-ART CROSS	73
JOURNALING — ST. JOSEPH.....	74
WEEK 12 — ST. MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD	74
CRAFT 2 — MAGNIFICAT GLASS LANTERN	76
CRAFT 3 — WOVEN “YES TO GOD” CROSS	76
CRAFT 4 — NATIVITY SILHOUETTE ON CANVAS	77
EXTENDED CRAFT — MAGNIFICAT TEXTILE WALL HANGING	78
JOURNALING — ST. MARY	79
WEEK 13 — ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA.....	80
CRAFT 1 — ST. NICHOLAS SECRET-GIFT BAG	80
CRAFT 2 — THREE GOLD COINS OF GENEROSITY.....	81
CRAFT 3 — ANONYMOUS KINDNESS ORNAMENT.....	82
CRAFT 4 — ST. NICHOLAS SHOE OF GENEROSITY	83
EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. NICHOLAS “GIVE IT AWAY” SERVICE PROJECT	84
JOURNALING — ST. NICHOLAS	85

WEEK 1 — ST. STEPHEN

Faithfulness • Forgiveness • Bold Witness

CRAFT 1 — “FORGIVE” PAINTED STONE

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Smooth river stones, approximately 2–4 inches
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- Paint pens or permanent markers.
- Cups of water
- Paper towels
- Disposable table covering
- Optional clear acrylic sealer

Directions

- Give each student a clean, dry stone.
- Explain that the stone reminds us of Stephen's martyrdom, but the message painted on it will remind us how Stephen responded.
- Students paint the background of the stone using their own design.
- Encourage designs such as a cross, flame, rays of light, dove, or simple patterns.
- Once the background is dry enough, write:

FORGIVE

- If there is room, add Acts 7:60 underneath.
- On the back, older students may add another word describing Stephen's witness:
 - Faith
 - Courage
 - Mercy

- Witness
 - Christ
- Allow the stones to dry.
- The teacher may apply clear sealer later if desired.

Faith Connection

The stone recalls what happened to Stephen but FORGIVE recalls what Stephen chose to do.

Stephen prayed:

“Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” — Acts 7:60

His response reflected Jesus Himself. Christian courage is not simply standing firm—it also means refusing to let hatred overcome love.

CRAFT 2 — WITNESS FLAME GLASS LANTERN

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small clean glass jars
- Red, orange, yellow, and gold tissue paper
- Mod Podge or diluted white glue.
- Foam brushes
- Black card stock
- Scissors
- Glue
- Black paint pens or permanent markers
- Battery-operated tea lights
- Optional twine

Directions

- Tear tissue paper into irregular pieces rather than cutting perfect shapes.

- Brush a thin layer of Mod Podge onto the outside of the jar.
- Layer red, orange, yellow, and gold tissue over the glass.
- Overlap the pieces so that light will shine through different shades.
- Brush another thin layer over the tissue.
- Allow the jar to begin drying.
- Cut a small cross from black cardstock and attach it to the front.
- Add the words:

FULL OF FAITH

AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Older students can add Acts 6:8 or simply WITNESS.
- Tie twine around the rim if desired.
- Place a battery-operated tea light inside.

Faith Connection

The flame represents Stephen's bold witness and the work of the Holy Spirit in his life.

Stephen wasn't courageous simply because he had a strong personality. Scripture describes him as a man “full of faith and the Holy Spirit.” His courage came from God.

When the lantern shines, students can remember that Christians are called to let the light of Christ be seen through their words and actions.

CRAFT 3 — BROKEN-TO-BEAUTIFUL FORGIVENESS CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small wooden crosses or heavy cardboard cross forms
- Small pieces of colored paper, cardstock, tissue, or precut mosaic pieces
- White glue
- Paintbrushes

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- Acrylic paint
- Paint pens
- Optional small decorative tiles or glass gems
- Optional Mod Podge

Directions

- Give each student a cross form.
- If using wood, students may first paint the cross with a base color.
- Provide many small, irregular pieces of colored material.
- Explain that the pieces deliberately look broken and separate.
- Students arrange the pieces across the cross to create a mosaic.
- Glue each piece into place.
- Leave small spaces between pieces so the mosaic pattern remains visible.
- Across the center or back write:

FORGIVE

- Add Acts 7:60.
- Older students may place four words around the cross:

FAITH • COURAGE • MERCY • WITNESS

Faith Connection

People can hurt one another and relationships can become broken. Forgiveness does not pretend that hurt never happened.

Instead, Christians bring what is broken to Christ.

The individual pieces remain visible in the finished cross, but together they become something beautiful. Stephen shows us that even in a terrible moment, God's grace can produce something unexpected mercy instead of revenge and forgiveness instead of hatred.

CRAFT 4 — “STAND AS A WITNESS” CANVAS ART

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Moderate

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Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- 8 × 10-inch canvas boards or heavy art paper
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- Black paint pens
- Sponges
- Painter's tape
- Paper towels
- Cups of water
- Optional cross stencil

Directions

- Place painter's tape on the canvas to form a simple cross.
- Students paint freely around the taped cross.
- They may sponge, brush, blend, or layer the background.
- Encourage rays, light, flames, or abstract patterns rather than trying to paint Stephen himself.
- Allow the paint to partially dry.
- Carefully remove the tape to reveal the cross.
- Along one side write:

FAITHFUL WITNESS

- Along the bottom add:

Acts 7:60

- Around the cross, students choose words from Stephen's story:
 - Faith
 - Truth
 - Courage
 - Wisdom

- Spirit
 - Mercy
 - Forgiveness
- Older students may choose only three or four words and explain why those words best describe Christian witness.

Faith Connection

Stephen's witness involved more than speaking about Jesus.

His words, actions, courage, and even his response toward those who hurt him pointed toward Christ.

The empty cross at the center reminds students that Stephen isn't the center of the story—Jesus is. Stephen's life mattered because his life pointed to Christ.

EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. STEPHEN “LIGHT OF WITNESS” MOSAIC

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium–High

This should produce something that looks substantially different from the regular crafts and is worth keeping.

Materials

- 8 × 10 or 9 × 12 canvas board OR thin wooden plaque
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- Small mosaic tiles, glass gems, sea glass, colored stones, or precut foam mosaic pieces
- Strong craft glue appropriate for the materials
- Wooden cross or crosscut from heavy cardstock.
- Gold or metallic paint
- Paint pens
- Pencil

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- Ruler
- Optional Mod Podge/sealer

Preparation

Before class, divide mosaic materials by color so students aren't spending half the lesson digging through one enormous container.

Teachers may also lightly sketch a cross shape onto younger students' boards.

Directions

- Paint the canvas or wooden plaque with a simple background.
- Allow some of the natural canvas or wood to remain visible if desired.
- Position a cross in the center.
- Students begin arranging mosaic pieces around the cross rather than covering it.
- Create rays moving outward from the cross.
- Different colors or sections can represent:
 - Faith
 - Holy Spirit
 - Courage
 - Forgiveness
 - Witness
- Do not glue immediately.
- Encourage students to experiment with the arrangement first.
- Once satisfied, glue each piece securely.
- Paint or decorate the central cross.
- Beneath the mosaic write:

FAITHFUL WITNESS

and

“Lord, do not charge them with this sin.”

Acts 7:60

- Older students can add one final word somewhere within the mosaic representing the part of Stephen's witness that challenges them personally.

- Allow the project to dry flat.
- Seal after class if desired.

Faith Connection

A mosaic is made from many individual pieces. From up close, we see separate shapes, colors, and fragments. When we stand back, we see the complete picture.

Stephen's Christian witness was also made of many things—service, knowledge of Scripture, courage, faith, the Holy Spirit, truth, mercy, and forgiveness.

His final prayer is especially important. Stephen didn't merely speak about Christ. At one of the hardest moments of his life, he behaved like Christ.

That is what made his witness so powerful.

JOURNALING — ST. STEPHEN

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Time: 8–10 minutes

The existing curriculum asks students to consider what it means to forgive when forgiveness feels undeserved. I would keep that central idea but deepen it for this age group.

Scripture

Acts 7:60

“Lord, do not charge them with this sin.”

Student Directions

- Read the Scripture quietly.
- Think about Stephen's response before you begin writing.
- You do not have to share anything personal that you do not want to share.
- Write thoughtfully rather than trying to find a “right” answer.
- Aim for one good paragraph or more.

Journal Prompt

Stephen forgave the people who were hurting him. Forgiveness did not mean that what they were doing was right.

What is the difference between forgiving someone and saying that what the person did was, okay?

Why do you think Jesus calls His followers to forgive?

Think about how anger can affect a person when they continue carrying it. How might choosing forgiveness change your own heart, even when another person never apologizes?

Finally, finish this sentence:

“Stephen's example teaches me that following Christ means...”

Optional Grades 5–6 Prompt

Stephen chose forgiveness instead of anger. Why can forgiving someone be difficult? What can we ask God to do when we are having trouble forgiving?

WEEK 2 — ST. ALBAN

Courage • Sacrifice • Faithful Witness

CRAFT 1 — ST. ALBAN ROMAN MOSAIC CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- 8 × 10 cardstock, canvas board, or cardboard
- Small squares of colored cardstock, craft foam, or mosaic tiles
- Gold paper or gold paint
- Glue
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Markers or paint pens

Directions

- Lightly draw a large cross in the center of the background.
- Create a border around the outside using repeating geometric shapes inspired by Roman mosaics.
- Fill the cross with small mosaic pieces.
- Leave narrow spaces between the pieces so the individual sections remain visible.
- Add **ST. ALBAN — FAITHFUL WITNESS**.
- Write **John 15:13** beneath the cross.
- Older students may add **LOVE • COURAGE • SACRIFICE • FAITH** within the border.

Faith Connection

Alban lived in Roman Britain. His courage grew out of love—for Christ and for another Christian whom he chose to protect.

The many individual pieces forming one cross remind students that Christian courage is made up of many smaller choices to love, serve, protect, and remain faithful.

CRAFT 2 — “GREATER LOVE” SHELTER HOUSE

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low–Medium

Materials

- Large craft sticks
- Small craft sticks
- Cardboard
- Glue or low-temperature glue guns with supervision.
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes
- Markers
- Twine
- Small wooden or cardstock cross

Directions

- Build a simple house shape from craft sticks.
- Add a roof and doorway.
- Paint or stain the craft sticks.
- Place a small cross inside or just inside the doorway.
- Across the roof or base write:

WELCOME • PROTECT • LOVE.

- Add **John 15:13**.
- Older students can write one-way Christian hospitality can protect, encourage, or help another person on the back.

Faith Connection

Alban's story began with something surprisingly ordinary: **he opened his home to someone who needed shelter.**

That act of hospitality eventually changed Alban's own life. It reminds students that God can work through something as simple as making room for another person.

CRAFT 3 — COURAGE CORD CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Two wooden craft sticks or small wooden dowels per student
- Twine, yarn, or embroidery cord.
- Several colors of cord
- Glue
- Scissors
- Wooden beads, optional
- Small cardstock tags

Directions

- Form a cross using two pieces of wood.
- Secure the center tightly with cord.
- Wrap different colors around portions of the cross.
- Assign a meaning to several colors, such as:
 - **Red — Sacrifice**
 - **Gold — Faith**
 - **White — Christ**
 - **Green — Courage/Growth**
- Tie the cord securely.
- Add a small tag reading **STAND FIRM IN CHRIST**.
- Write **Matthew 10:32** on the reverse.

Faith Connection

Courage does not mean never feeling afraid. The guide specifically encourages teachers to explain this distinction to Grades 5–6.

The strands wrapped together represent the things that strengthened Alban—faith, love, sacrifice, and trust in Christ.

CRAFT 4 — ST. ALBAN CELTIC CROSS PAINTING

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small wooden crosses or canvas boards
- Acrylic paints
- Brushes
- Paint pens
- Celtic-pattern templates
- Transfer paper, optional.
- Pencils

Directions

- Paint the wooden cross or canvas background.
- Add a simple Celtic knot or woven border.
- Students do **not** need to create complicated Celtic knotwork; repeating over-and-under lines is enough.
- Add a circle around the intersection of the cross if using a Celtic cross design.
- Incorporate the word:

COURAGE

- Add **John 15:13** on the back or bottom.

Faith Connection

Alban is remembered as Britain's first Christian martyr. The cross connects his story to the long history of Christianity in Britain while keeping **Christ**, rather than martyrdom itself, at the center.

EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. ALBAN ILLUMINATED “GREATER LOVE” PLAQUE

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- 8 × 10 canvas board or wooden plaque
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- Gold paint or metallic paint pens
- Black paint pens
- Rulers
- Celtic/Roman border examples
- Small decorative stones or gems, optional
- Glue

Directions

- Create a decorative border combining Roman geometric patterns with early British/Celtic-inspired designs.
- Paint a cross in the center.
- Add:

GREATER LOVE

prominently around or beneath the cross.

- Incorporate **John 15:13**.
- Add small symbols representing Alban's story:
 - House — hospitality

- Cross — faith
 - Cloak — protection
 - Hill — witness
- Older students can add one word describing the kind of courage they believe Christians need today.
- Add gold details last to give the finished project the appearance of an illuminated work.
- Allow to dry flat.

Faith Connection

Alban's courage did not suddenly appear at his death. His witness began when he **welcomed, listened, learned, protected, and finally confessed Christ.**

Christian courage develops through faithful choices.

JOURNALING — ST. ALBAN

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Time: 8–10 minutes

Scripture

John 15:13

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

Journal Prompt

Alban first encountered Christianity because he welcomed someone into his home.

Why do you think hospitality can be a form of Christian witness?

Courage doesn't always involve doing something dramatic. Sometimes courage means helping someone who is unpopular, speaking up when someone is mistreated, admitting that you are a Christian, or doing what is right when your friends choose differently.

Describe what **quiet Christian courage** might look like in the life of someone your age.

Finish:

“I can show courageous love when...”

Optional Grades 5–6

What is one way you can show kindness or courage toward someone who needs a friend this week?

WEEK 3 — ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

Mission • Evangelism • The English Church

CRAFT 1 — MISSIONARY COMPASS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Round wooden discs or heavy cardboard circles
- Acrylic paint
- Paint pens
- Rulers
- Twine
- Small wooden crosses, optional

Directions

- Paint the disc to resemble a compass.
- Mark north, south, east, and west.
- Place a cross at the center.
- Around the outside write:

GO • TEACH • WITNESS • SERVE.

- Add **Matthew 28:19**.
- Attach twine for hanging.

Faith Connection

A compass helps travelers know where they are going. Augustine traveled far from home because the Church sent him to share the Gospel.

Christ gives the Church its direction: **“Go therefore and make disciples...”**

CRAFT 2 — CANTERBURY STAINED-GLASS WINDOW

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Black card stock
- Colored tissue paper or cellophane
- Clear contact paper
- Scissors
- Cross templates
- Gold markers

Directions

- Cut a Gothic-style window frame from black cardstock.
- Create several window openings.
- Place colored tissue or cellophane behind them.
- Add a central cross.
- Include **597** somewhere within the design.
- Add:

CANTERBURY

and

WITNESS TO CHRIST

Faith Connection

Augustine established his mission at Canterbury, which became an important center of the English Church. The light passing through the window represents the Gospel being carried into new places.

CRAFT 3 — WALKING WITNESS SANDAL

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Craft foam or thick felt.
- Cord
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Markers or paint pens
- Cardstock tags

Directions

- Trace a sandal sole onto foam or felt.
- Cut it out.
- Punch holes along the sides.
- Lace cord through the holes to create sandal straps.
- Write:

HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET...

- Add **Romans 10:15**.
- Attach a tag describing one way the student can carry Christ's message through actions or words.

Faith Connection

Augustine and his companions traveled a long distance to share the Gospel. Romans reminds us that the “beautiful feet” are not really about feet—they represent people willing to **go** where God sends them.

CRAFT 4 — BUILD A MISSION CHURCH

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Craft sticks
- Cardboard bases
- Glue
- Paint
- Small stones
- Moss or greenery, optional
- Wooden crosses

Directions

- Construct a small church on a cardboard base.
- Build walls from craft sticks.
- Create a peaked roof.
- Add doors and simple windows.
- Place a cross prominently on the building.
- Landscape the base with stones or moss.
- Add a sign:

CANTERBURY — A.D. 597

Faith Connection

The Church isn't really a building. **The Church is God's people.**

The model represents Augustine's work establishing Christian worship and teaching, while reminding students that church buildings exist because Christians gather within them to worship Christ.

EXTENDED CRAFT — AUGUSTINE'S MISSION JOURNEY SHADOW BOX

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 50–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium–High

Materials

- Shoeboxes or shallow cardboard boxes
- Cardboard
- Craft sticks
- Acrylic paint
- Modeling clay
- Twine
- Printed or hand-drawn map pieces.
- Small stones
- Moss
- Glue
- Paint pens

Directions

- Turn the box on its side to create a miniature scene.
- Create three visual layers:
 - **Rome**
 - **The Journey**
 - **Canterbury**
- Construct a small church at Canterbury.
- Use twine to represent Augustine's route.
- Add miniature crosses or figures if desired.
- Include **Rome → Kent → Canterbury**.
- Add **Romans 10:15**.
- Older students add three words describing successful Christian mission:

HUMILITY • PATIENCE • WITNESS

Faith Connection

Augustine's journey included uncertainty and discouragement. The curriculum tells students that at one point the missionaries even considered turning back.

Mission often requires continuing faithfully even when we cannot see what God will do next.

JOURNALING — ST. AUGUSTINE

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Scripture

Acts 1:8

“You shall be witnesses to Me...”

Journal Prompt

Augustine traveled to people whose language and customs were different from his own.

There is an important difference between **sharing your faith** and **forcing your beliefs on someone else**.

What do you think respectful Christian witness looks like?

How can someone's **actions** make another person more willing—or less willing—to listen when they talk about Jesus?

Finish:

“People should be able to see my faith by...”

Optional Grades 5–6

What is one way you can show someone Jesus' love without preaching a sermon to them?

WEEK 4 — ST. COLUMBA OF IONA

Repentance • Forgiveness • Mission

CRAFT 1 — ILLUMINATED SCRIPTURE LETTER

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low–Medium

Materials

- Heavy cream cardstock
- Black fine-tip markers
- Colored pencils
- Gold paint pens
- Rulers
- Celtic border examples
- Watercolor paints, optional

Directions

- Choose the first letter **C** from:

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

- Draw an oversized decorative **C**.
- Fill the letter with Celtic-inspired patterns, vines, knots, crosses, or geometric designs.
- Add gold accents.
- Write the remainder of **Psalms 51:10** beside or beneath it.
- Add a decorative border.

Faith Connection

Columba loved Scripture. Monastic communities such as Iona became centers of prayer, learning, copying manuscripts, and missionary work.

Students experience a small taste of the care with which Christians preserved and decorated Scripture.

CRAFT 2 — IONA CORACLE BOAT

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Paper bowls or small cardboard trays
- Brown paper
- Craft sticks
- Fabric scraps
- Twine
- Glue
- Paint
- Markers

Directions

- Turn a shallow paper bowl or cardboard form into a small boat.
- Paint or cover it with brown paper.
- Add a craft-stick mast.
- Cut a small fabric sail.
- Tie the sail to the mast with twine.
- Add a small cross to the sail.
- Write:

NEW DIRECTION

on one side.

- Add **Psalm 51:10** on the other.

Faith Connection

Columba left Ireland and traveled to Iona.

The boat represents more than a physical journey. **Repentance means changing direction.**

Columba's life reminds students that God can give a person a new direction after failure.

CRAFT 3 — CELTIC KNOT CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–45 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Wooden cross or heavy cardstock cross
- Cord, yarn, or embroidery thread.
- Glue
- Acrylic paint
- Paint pens
- Celtic knot examples

Directions

- Paint the cross.
- Create simple woven patterns with cord.
- Cross strands over and under one another to resemble Celtic knotwork.
- Wrap or glue the cord securely.
- Add:

NEW CREATION

- Write **2 Corinthians 5:17** on the back.

Faith Connection

The continuous woven line can remind students of God's continuing grace.

Columba's mistakes did not have the final word over his life. God redirected him toward faithful service.

CRAFT 4 — “CLEAN HEART” CLAY HEART

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Air-dry clay
- Rolling pins
- Heart cutters or templates
- Clay tools or toothpicks
- Acrylic paint
- Twine
- Drinking straw

Directions

- Roll the clay approximately ¼-inch thick.
- Cut or shape a heart.
- Use a straw to make a hanging hole.
- Press a small cross into the center.
- Add simple Celtic patterns around the border.
- Scratch:

CREATE IN ME

into the clay.

- Allow it to dry completely.
- Paint during class if using quick-dry material, or paint during another session.
- Add twine for hanging.

Faith Connection

Psalm 51 does not ask God merely to make us *look* better.

“Create in me a clean heart” asks God to change us from within.

Repentance involves recognizing what is wrong, turning back toward God, and allowing Him to reshape our lives.

EXTENDED CRAFT — IONA CELTIC CROSS MOSAIC

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium–High

Materials

- Wooden cross or crosscut from sturdy wood/cardboard.
- Small mosaic tiles
- Sea glass
- Small smooth stones
- Blue and green glass gems
- Strong craft glue
- Acrylic paints
- Brushes
- Gold paint pens
- Optional grout for teacher-supervised finishing

Directions

- Paint the base of the cross.
- Arrange mosaic pieces before gluing.
- Use blues and greens to suggest the sea and island landscape surrounding Iona.
- Incorporate a circular Celtic-cross design at the intersection.
- Add small white, gold, or clear pieces near the center to represent renewal.
- Glue pieces securely.
- Add:

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

- Include **Psalms 51:10**.

- On the back, students write:

REPENTANCE MEANS TURNING BACK TO GOD.

- Allow the mosaic to dry flat.
- Teachers may grout or seal the projects later if desired.

Faith Connection

This is another “broken pieces becoming something new” concept, but here the emphasis isn’t primarily forgiveness of others as it was with Stephen.

For Columba, the emphasis is **God’s ability to redirect a life.**

Columba could not undo the past. He could repent, receive God’s mercy, and allow God to determine what came next. That is a powerful distinction for these older students.

JOURNALING — ST. COLUMBA

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Time: 8–10 minutes

Scripture

Psalms 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Journal Prompt

Everyone makes mistakes, but there is a difference between **feeling sorry** and **repenting**.

What do you think that difference is?

Columba could not change what had already happened, but he could allow God to change what he did **next**.

Think about this statement:

“My past can teach me, but it does not have to control my future.”

How does Christian forgiveness make a new beginning possible?

Is there an attitude, habit, or behavior in your own life that you would like God to help you change?

You do **not** have to describe it in your journal. Instead, write about what taking a new direction might look like.

Finish:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and help me to...”

Optional Grades 5–6

Repentance means turning away from what is wrong and turning back toward God. What is one way God helps us make better choices after we have made a mistake?

WEEK 5 — ST. AIDAN OF LINDISFARNE

Gentleness • Teaching • Faithful Pastoral Care

CRAFT 1 — WALKING WITH CHRIST STEPPINGSTONE

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Smooth flat stones or small concrete garden pavers
- Acrylic or outdoor craft paint
- Paintbrushes
- Paint pens
- Stencils, optional
- Clear outdoor sealer, optional

Directions

- Paint the stone with a simple background.
- Add a footprint, small cross, Celtic design, or path.
- Paint the words:

WALK GENTLY

- Add **2 Timothy 2:24** or simply **Be Gentle to All**.
- Older students may add one of Aidan's qualities around the edge:
 - **Listen**
 - **Teach**
 - **Serve**
 - **Give**
 - **Walk**
- Allow it to dry completely.
- Seal later if the stone is to be placed outdoors.

Faith Connection

Aidan didn't remain safely inside his monastery waiting for people to come to him. He **walked to them**. The stone reminds students that Christian ministry often begins by being willing to walk beside another person.

CRAFT 2 — LINDISFARNE SEA-GLASS CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small wooden plaques
- Sea glass or sea-glass-style craft pieces
- Small shells, optional
- Strong craft glue
- Acrylic paint
- Paint pens
- Twine

Directions

- Paint the wooden background in ocean/island-inspired tones.
- Arrange sea glass into the shape of a cross.
- Experiment with the arrangement before gluing.
- Glue the pieces securely.
- Add:

GENTLE TO ALL

- Write **2 Timothy 2:24** along the bottom.
- Add twine for hanging if desired.

Faith Connection

Lindisfarne—Holy Island—became the center of Aidan's ministry. The cross rising from sea-colored pieces reminds students that the Gospel traveled outward from this small island through patient teaching and faithful lives.

CRAFT 3 — “LISTEN FIRST” TALKING STICK

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Wooden dowels or sturdy sticks
- Yarn or cord
- Wooden beads
- Feathers, optional
- Paint
- Paint pens
- Small wooden crosses

Directions

- Paint portions of the stick.
- Wrap sections tightly with cord or yarn.
- Add wooden beads.
- Attach a small cross.
- Add a tag reading:

LISTEN • LOVE • SPEAK.

- Older students can add **1 Peter 3:15**.

Faith Connection

This is **not intended as a historical object used by Aidan**. It is a classroom symbol of his approach.

Aidan listened and built relationships before trying to teach. Christian witness isn't simply waiting for our turn to talk. Sometimes loving someone begins with listening.

CRAFT 4 — ILLUMINATED LINDISFARNE CROSS

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Low–Medium

Materials

- Heavy cream cardstock
- Black fine-line pens
- Metallic markers
- Colored pencils
- Watercolors, optional
- Rulers

Directions

- Draw a large cross.
- Fill sections with interwoven Celtic-inspired patterns.
- Add vines, birds, knots, or geometric shapes.
- Use rich colors and metallic accents.
- Surround the cross with:

GENTLENESS IS STRENGTH GUIDED BY LOVE

- Add **2 Timothy 2:24**.

Faith Connection

Aidan's strength wasn't loud or forceful. He demonstrated that Christians could hold firmly to truth while treating people with patience and gentleness.

EXTENDED CRAFT — LINDISFARNE HOLY ISLAND DIORAMA

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 50–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium–High

Materials

- Shallow cardboard boxes or sturdy cardboard bases
- Air-dry clay
- Craft sticks
- Small stones
- Sand
- Moss
- Blue paper or paint
- Acrylic paints
- Glue
- Twine
- Small wooden crosses

Directions

- Create an island landscape on the base.
- Paint or cover the surrounding area to represent water.
- Shape the island from clay, cardboard, or crumpled paper.
- Construct a small monastery/church from craft sticks.
- Add pathways leading away from the monastery.
- Place small stones along the paths.
- Add a cross near the monastery.
- Label the paths:

LISTEN • TEACH • SERVE • GIVE.

- Add **LINDISFARNE — HOLY ISLAND**.

- Older students add a small card explaining why Aidan's willingness to go out among the people mattered.

Faith Connection

The monastery was not meant to become a place where Christians hid from everyone else.

Aidan went **out**.

The paths leaving the monastery remind students that what Christians learn through Scripture, prayer, and worship is meant to shape how they live among other people.

JOURNALING — ST. AIDAN

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Scripture

2 Timothy 2:24

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient.”

Journal Prompt

Aidan believed people were more likely to listen when Christians approached them patiently and kindly.

Why is it sometimes easier to **argue** than to listen?

Can you strongly believe something is true while still treating someone who disagrees with you with gentleness?

Describe what that might look like.

Finish:

“Being gentle does not mean being weak because...”

Optional Grades 5–6

How can listening to someone be a way of showing Christian love?

WEEK 6 — ST. PATRICK OF IRELAND

Mission • Forgiveness • The Holy Trinity

CRAFT 1 — CLAY TRINITY SHAMROCK BOWL

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes plus drying

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Air-dry clay
- Rolling pins
- Shamrock templates
- Small bowls for shaping
- Clay tools
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes
- Paint pens

Directions

- Roll clay approximately ¼-inch thick.
- Cut a large three-leaf shamrock.
- Gently press it into a shallow bowl to give it shape.
- Smooth the edges.
- On the three leaves imprint:
 - **FATHER**
 - **SON**
 - **HOLY SPIRIT**
- In the center imprint:

ONE GOD

- Allow to dry.
- Paint later if necessary.

Faith Connection

The shamrock is traditionally associated with Patrick's teaching about the Holy Trinity. It is only an **illustration**, not a complete explanation of the mystery of God.

The Church confesses **one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**.

CRAFT 2 — ST. PATRICK CELTIC KNOT BRACELET

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Green, white, and gold cord
- Wooden beads
- Cross beads, optional
- Scissors
- Tape or clipboards.

Directions

- Choose three strands of cord.
- Secure one end.
- Braid or knot the three strands together.
- Add beads if desired.
- Tie securely around the wrist or create a keychain instead.
- Attach a small card:

FATHER • SON • HOLY SPIRIT — ONE GOD

Faith Connection

Three strands remain distinct but are woven together into one piece.

Again, this is a **visual reminder**, not a definition of the Trinity. The bracelet reminds students of the faith Patrick proclaimed.

CRAFT 3 — “OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD” WOODEN SHIELD

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Wooden shield blanks or sturdy cardboard
- Acrylic paint
- Brushes
- Paint pens
- Celtic stencils
- Small wooden crosses

Directions

- Paint the shield.
- Add a Celtic-style border.
- Place a cross prominently in the center.
- Add:

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

- Write **Romans 12:21**.
- On the reverse, older students write one way forgiveness can prevent evil from creating more evil.

Faith Connection

Patrick returned to the land where he had once been enslaved—not for revenge, but to preach Christ.

Christian courage refuses to allow past evil to determine how we treat others.

CRAFT 4 — PATRICK'S MISSION SAILBOAT

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Corks or small pieces of wood
- Craft sticks
- Cardstock or fabric
- Twine
- Paint
- Glue
- Paint pens

Directions

- Construct a small boat.
- Add a craft-stick mast.
- Make a fabric or card stock sail.
- Paint a cross on the sail.
- Add:

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

- Write **Matthew 28:19** on the base or sail.

Faith Connection

Patrick's life involved journeys he did not choose and, later, a missionary journey he **did** choose.

The boat becomes a symbol of answering God's call.

EXTENDED CRAFT — CELTIC TRINITY STRING ART

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Teacher Preparation: High

Materials

- Small wooden boards
- Small nails or pushpins appropriate for the board
- Hammer — teacher/adult supervised.
- Embroidery floss or thin yarn
- Trinity-knot template
- Acrylic paint
- Paint pens

Directions

- Teachers may pre-place nails for younger students.
- Paint or stain the board.
- Transfer a simple Trinity-knot design.
- Place nails around the design.
- Wrap cord from nail to nail to build the pattern.
- Continue until the three interlocking sections are clearly visible.
- Add:

ONE GOD

FATHER • SON • HOLY SPIRIT

- Add a small **St. Patrick of Ireland** label on the back.

Faith Connection

The Trinity is a mystery Christians confess rather than something we can completely explain with an object.

The interwoven design provides a visual reminder that Christian belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is at the heart of the faith Patrick carried to Ireland.

JOURNALING — ST. PATRICK

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Journal Prompt

Patrick had every reason to remember Ireland as a place of suffering. Yet he returned as a missionary.

What is the difference between **remembering something painful** and allowing that experience to control your future?

How might forgiveness give someone freedom to choose what comes next?

Then consider Patrick's mission.

What would make someone willing to return to a difficult place to serve Christ?

Finish:

“God can use difficult experiences in my life by...”

Optional Grades 5–6

Why do you think Patrick chose to help people instead of seeking revenge?

WEEK 7 — ST. BENEDICT OF NURSIA

Prayer • Discipline • A Rule of Life

CRAFT 1 — PRAYER BEAD CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Cord
- Wooden beads
- Cross beads or small wooden crosses
- Scissors
- Small tags

Directions

- String beads onto cord.
- Divide the beads into simple sections representing:
 - **Prayer**
 - **Work**
 - **Study**
 - **Rest**
 - **Service**
- Add a cross.
- Tie securely.
- Attach:

ORA ET LABORA — PRAY AND WORK

Faith Connection

Benedict taught that ordinary life could be ordered toward God. Prayer isn't separate from the rest of life—it helps shape everything else we do.

CRAFT 2 — RULE OF LIFE WOODEN WHEEL

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Round wooden plaques
- Acrylic paints
- Paint pens
- Rulers
- Small cross stencils

Directions

- Divide the circle into sections.
- Label them:
 - **Prayer**
 - **Worship**
 - **Family**
 - **Study**
 - **Work**
 - **Rest**
 - **Service**
- Place **CHRIST** in the center.
- Decorate each section.
- Older students add one realistic habit within each area.

Faith Connection

A Rule of Life isn't a list designed to make God love us.

It is a pattern that helps Christians intentionally make room for God in everyday life.

CRAFT 3 — MONASTIC HERB GARDEN

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small terracotta pots
- Acrylic paint
- Brushes
- Potting soil
- Herb seeds or starter plants
- Wooden plant markers

Directions

- Paint the pot with a cross or simple Benedictine-inspired design.
- Add:

PRAY • WORK • GROW.

- Fill with soil.
- Plant basil, parsley, rosemary, mint, or another herb.
- Label the plant.
- Discuss the daily discipline required to keep something alive.

Faith Connection

Spiritual growth is often gradual.

Plants require regular attention; Christian habits also develop through small, faithful actions repeated over time.

CRAFT 4 — MONASTERY DOOR HANGING

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Wooden slats or jumbo craft sticks
- Twine
- Paint
- Paint pens
- Small wooden cross
- Glue

Directions

- Join wooden pieces to create a rustic plaque.
- Paint or stain.
- Add a cross.
- Write:

PRAYER • WORK • HOSPITALITY • PEACE

- Attach twine for hanging.

Faith Connection

Benedictine life was not merely about personal discipline. Community, hospitality, prayer, and service belonged together.

EXTENDED CRAFT — MY PERSONAL RULE OF LIFE PLAQUE

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- 8 × 10 wooden plaque or canvas
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes

Anglican Saints Curriculum

- Paint pens
- Rulers
- Decorative paper
- Mod Podge, optional.

Directions

- Place a cross or **CHRIST** in the center.
- Divide the remaining area into sections:
 - **PRAY**
 - **WORSHIP**
 - **LEARN**
 - **SERVE**
 - **REST**
 - **LOVE**
- In each section, write **one realistic practice**.
- Avoid vague promises such as “pray more.”
- Encourage concrete practices such as:
 - Pray before school.
 - Attend Sunday worship.
 - Read Scripture for five minutes.
 - Help without being asked.
 - Put my phone away during prayer.
- Decorate the plaque.
- Add:

ORA ET LABORA

Faith Connection

The goal isn't to create a perfect schedule.

The question is: **What habits help me make room for Christ?**

JOURNALING — ST. BENEDICT

Journal Prompt

We usually think freedom means **doing whatever we want**.

But can discipline give us greater freedom?

Think about sports, music, school, prayer, or another part of life. How does practicing something regularly change what you are eventually able to do?

What is **one spiritual habit** you would like to develop?

Finish:

“I can make more room for God in my life by...”

Optional Grades 5–6

Choose one small habit that could help you grow closer to God this week. Why did you choose it?

WEEK 8 — ST. GEORGE

Courage • Faithfulness • Standing Firm for Christ

CRAFT 1 — FOLDED & PAINTED PAPER DRAGON

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Heavy watercolor paper or cardstock
- Dragon folding template
- Watercolor or acrylic paints
- Brushes
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Googly eyes, optional.

Directions

- Fold and construct the dragon according to the template.
- Paint scales, wings, eyes, and details.
- Allow students plenty of freedom with the design.
- Attach a small tag:

STAND FIRM IN CHRIST

- Add the week's Scripture reference.
- Older students write one fear, or challenge Christians may need courage to face—not on the dragon itself, but on a removable paper “flame.”

Faith Connection

Make clear that **the dragon comes from later legends about St. George.**

The dragon nevertheless gives us a useful artistic symbol for fear, temptation, and things that seem powerful.

George's Christian witness reminds us that courage comes from faithfulness to Christ.

CRAFT 2 — ST. GEORGE CROSS FLAG

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Canvas fabric or heavy muslin.
- Wooden dowels
- Red fabric paint
- Brushes
- Painter's tape
- Twine

Directions

- Tape a cross pattern onto the fabric.
- Paint the cross.
- Remove tape carefully.
- Attach fabric to the dowel.
- Add:

STAND FIRM

- Attach hanging cord.

Faith Connection

The cross traditionally associated with St. George becomes a reminder that his identity as a Christian witness—not the legendary dragon—is the center of the lesson.

CRAFT 3 — ARMOR OF FAITH BRACER

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low–Medium

Materials

- Craft foam
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Cord
- Metallic paint
- Paint pens

Directions

- Cut a wrist/forearm bracer from foam.
- Punch holes.
- Lace with cord.
- Paint to resemble metal or leather.
- Add a cross.
- Write:

FAITH • TRUTH • COURAGE

Faith Connection

The armor is symbolic. Christian courage doesn't come from weapons or physical strength. Standing firm means remaining faithful to Christ.

CRAFT 4 — COURAGE BATTLE STANDARD

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Felt
- Wooden dowels

Anglican Saints Curriculum

- Fabric glue
- Scissors
- Fabric markers
- Cord

Directions

- Cut a medieval-style banner shape.
- Add a cross.
- Add:

BE FAITHFUL

- Decorate with borders and symbols of courage.
- Attach to a dowel.

Faith Connection

The banner asks a better question than “Would I fight a dragon?”

What do I stand for?

For George, the answer was Christ.

EXTENDED CRAFT — DRAGON & CROSS RELIEF ART

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 50–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium–High

Materials

- Canvas boards
- Air-dry clay
- Acrylic paint
- Brushes
- Craft glue
- Wooden crosses
- Paint pens

Directions

- Sculpt a dragon or dragon scales from thin pieces of clay.
- Attach the clay to the lower portion of the canvas.
- Place a cross prominently above or in the center.
- Paint the entire composition after the clay begins setting.
- Add:

STAND FIRM IN CHRIST

- Older students choose a word representing something faith helps Christians face:
 - **Fear**
 - **Pressure**
 - **Temptation**
 - **Doubt**
 - **Loneliness**

Faith Connection

The dragon is **symbolic**, not the historical focus.

The cross is intentionally more prominent because Christian courage is not about defeating imaginary monsters. It is about trusting Christ when faithfulness is difficult.

JOURNALING — ST. GEORGE

Journal Prompt

Courage is not the absence of fear.

Can someone be afraid and courageous at the same time? Explain.

People your age may face pressure to hide what they believe, follow a crowd, laugh at someone, cheat, gossip, or remain silent when something is wrong.

Choose one situation—not necessarily something personal—and explain what **standing firm** might look like.

Finish:

“Christian courage means...”

Optional Grades 5–6

What helps you do the right thing when you are afraid?

WEEK 9 — ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Simplicity • Joyful Poverty • Love for God's Creation

CRAFT 1 — ST. FRANCIS BIRD FEEDER

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small unfinished wooden birdhouses/feeders OR simple kits
- Acrylic paints
- Brushes
- Twine
- Birdseed
- Paint pens

Directions

- Assemble the feeder if using kits.
- Paint with leaves, vines, birds, flowers, crosses, or natural patterns.
- Add:

PRAISE THE LORD

- Attach twine.
- Fill with appropriate birdseed at home.

Faith Connection

Caring for creation is different from worshiping creation.

Francis' love of nature flowed from his love for **the Creator**.

CRAFT 2 — PRESSED CREATION CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low–Medium

Materials

- Wooden crosses
- Pressed flowers and leaves
- Mod Podge
- Foam brushes
- Tweezers
- Paint pens

Directions

- Arrange pressed natural materials across the cross.
- Glue carefully.
- Brush a thin protective layer over the design.
- Add:

ALL CREATION PRAISES GOD

- Allow to dry flat.

Faith Connection

The beauty of creation points beyond itself to God.

The cross at the center keeps the project distinctly Christian: creation is a gift from the God revealed to us in Christ.

CRAFT 3 — CLAY CREATION MEDALLIONS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Air-dry clay
- Rolling pins
- Leaves
- Flowers
- Shells
- Small crosses
- Drinking straws
- Paint, optional
- Twine

Directions

- Roll clay flat.
- Cut circles or organic shapes.
- Press leaves, flowers, shells, or other natural textures into the clay.
- Add a small cross impression.
- Make a hanging hole.
- Add:

CREATOR

or

GIVE THANKS

- Dry and add twine.

Faith Connection

Students physically imprint creation into the clay.

The impressions remind them that creation bears witness to God's generosity and beauty.

CRAFT 4 — SIMPLE TREASURE BAG

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Small plain canvas drawstring bags
- Fabric markers
- Fabric paint
- Stencils
- Cardstock

Directions

- Decorate the bag simply.
- Add:

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS...

- Create several small cards.
- Instead of possessions, write things of lasting value:
 - **Faith**
 - **Family**
 - **Love**
 - **Friendship**
 - **Mercy**
 - **Service**
 - **Prayer**
- Place the cards inside.

Faith Connection

Francis challenges us to ask what we really treasure.

Possessions aren't automatically bad. The deeper question is whether our possessions **possess us**.

EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. FRANCIS CREATION MOSAIC GARDEN CROSS

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 50–60 minutes

Cleanup: High

Materials

- Wooden garden crosses or sturdy wooden plaques
- Small stones
- Sea glass
- Mosaic pieces
- Shells
- Dried natural materials
- Strong craft adhesive
- Acrylic paint
- Paint pens
- Optional outdoor sealer

Directions

- Paint the wooden base.
- Place a cross prominently within the design if using a plaque.
- Arrange natural and mosaic materials around it.
- Create images such as:
 - Sun
 - Water
 - Leaves
 - Flowers
 - Birds
 - Earth
- Glue everything securely.
- Add:

PRAISE GOD THE CREATOR

- Older students incorporate **one deliberate empty/simple area** rather than filling every inch.
- Discuss why simplicity can sometimes make art—and life—more meaningful.
- Seal later if the piece will be displayed outdoors.

Faith Connection

Francis teaches two ideas that belong together:

Receive creation gratefully.

Hold possessions lightly.

The students don't need more things to experience joy. Creation itself reminds us how much God has already given.

JOURNALING — ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Journal Prompt

There is a difference between **having possessions** and allowing possessions to become the most important things in our lives.

Think about the things young people are encouraged to want—new phones, clothes, shoes, games, popularity, followers, or whatever happens to be fashionable.

Why do new things make us happy for a while but often stop feeling special?

What do you have in your life that **cannot be bought**?

Name five things for which you are genuinely grateful.

Then answer:

If I wanted to live more simply and gratefully, what is one thing I could change?

Finish:

“The things I treasure most are...”

Optional Grades 5–6

Name five things God has given you that money cannot buy. Why are they valuable to you?

WEEK 10 — ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Charity • Reform • Faithful Leadership

CRAFT 1 — ST. MARGARET MERCY CROWN

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low–Medium

Materials

- Wooden crown shapes or heavy chipboard crowns
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes
- Flat-back craft gems
- Strong craft glue
- Paint pens
- Small wooden crosses

Directions

- Paint the crown.
- Place a cross prominently in the center.
- Instead of decorating simply for beauty, assign each jewel a Christian quality:
 - **Mercy**
 - **Service**
 - **Generosity**
 - **Prayer**
 - **Humility**
 - **Justice**
- Glue a gem beside each word.
- Add:

LEAD BY SERVING

- Older students may write on the back:

A Christian leader asks, “Whom can I serve?”

Faith Connection

Margaret was a queen, but her Christian witness was not about wealth, privilege, or being important.

The crown becomes a symbol of **responsibility**. Christian leadership uses whatever authority or influences we have to serve others.

CRAFT 2 — BREAD OF COMPASSION CLOTH BAG

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Small cotton or muslin drawstring bags
- Fabric markers
- Fabric paint
- Cross stencils
- Cardboard inserts
- Ribbon or cord

Directions

- Place cardboard inside the bag.
- Decorate with a cross, wheat, bread, or Celtic-inspired design.
- Add:

SERVE CHRIST BY SERVING OTHERS

- On the reverse write:

LOVE • FEED • WELCOME • SERVE.

- Students may later use the bag to hold a food donation or small collection of items for someone in need.

Faith Connection

This one takes Margaret's charity out of the abstract.

Christian charity is not simply *feeling sorry* for someone. It looks for a concrete way to help.

CRAFT 3 — CELTIC SERVICE KNOT

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Wooden rings
- Several colors of cord
- Wooden beads
- Small cross charms or wooden crosses
- Scissors
- Tags

Directions

- Wrap the wooden ring with cord.
- Create simple woven or knotted sections.
- Use different cords to represent:
 - **God**
 - **Family**
 - **Church**
 - **Neighbor**
 - **Those in Need**
- Add a cross.
- Attach a hanging cord.
- Add a tag:

FAITH IS LIVED IN SERVICE

Faith Connection

Our Christian lives are connected to other people.

Margaret's faith affected her family, her court, her Church, and the poor. Genuine faith doesn't remain locked inside a person's private life.

CRAFT 4 — SERVANT LEADERSHIP CANDLE JAR

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small glass jars
- Tissue paper
- Mod Podge
- Foam brushes
- Gold paint pens
- Black card stock
- Battery-operated tea lights

Directions

- Cover the jar with overlapping tissue pieces.
- Add a cross silhouette.
- Around the jar add:

CHARITY • MERCY • FAITH • SERVICE

- Add:

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

- Place a battery-operated tea light inside when dry.

Faith Connection

Leadership is often seen as being above others.

Christian leadership is different. A faithful leader helps others see Christ.

EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. MARGARET SERVICE BOX

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small unfinished wooden boxes
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- Paint pens
- Decorative paper
- Mod Podge
- Small wooden crosses
- Index cards

Directions

- Paint and decorate the box.
- Place a cross on the lid.
- Add:

FAITHFUL SERVICE

- Decorate with Celtic-inspired borders if desired.
- Create cards labeled:
 - **HOME**
 - **CHURCH**
 - **SCHOOL**
 - **COMMUNITY**
 - **SOMEONE IN NEED**
- On each card, students write one realistic act of service.
- Place the cards inside.
- Students can continue adding acts of service after taking the box home.

Faith Connection

This isn't merely a box *about* service.

It becomes a tool for **doing it**.

Margaret's position gave her opportunities to help others. Students may not be kings or queens, but every Christian has something—time, ability, kindness, attention—that can be given.

JOURNALING — ST. MARGARET

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Journal Prompt

People sometimes think being a leader means **being in charge**.

Jesus gives Christians a very different understanding of leadership.

What is the difference between a person who asks:

“What can everyone do for me?”

and a person who asks:

“What can I do for them?”

You don't need an official title to influence other people.

Where do you already have influence—among friends, siblings, classmates, teammates, or younger children?

How could you use that influence well?

Finish:

“A Christian leader should...”

Optional Grades 5–6

What is one way you can serve someone without being asked?

WEEK 11 — ST. JOSEPH

Courage • Humility • Trust in God

The existing lesson emphasizes Joseph's courage, humility, and trust, but its current projects are a Trust Shield, Carpenter's Obedience Bookmark, and Journey to Egypt Map.

This week is practically begging us to **use wood**.

CRAFT 1 — CARPENTER'S CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Two small pieces of unfinished wood
- Wood glue
- Sandpaper
- Acrylic paint or washable stain
- Paint pens
- Twine

Directions

- Lightly sand the wood.
- Join the pieces to form a cross.
- Wrap the center with twine.
- Paint or stain if desired.
- Add:

TRUST GOD

- On the back add:

ST. JOSEPH — FAITHFUL & OBEDIENT

Faith Connection

Joseph worked with his hands, but his greatest contribution wasn't something he built from wood.

Joseph faithfully accepted the responsibility God gave him.

His quiet obedience helped protect and care for the Holy Family.

CRAFT 2 — JOSEPH'S TOOLBOX

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Small wooden boxes or cardboard toolbox forms
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- Craft foam
- Scissors
- Paint pens
- Glue

Directions

- Paint the toolbox.
- Create small tool shapes from craft foam.
- On each tool write:
 - **TRUST**
 - **COURAGE**
 - **PATIENCE**
 - **OBEDIENCE**
 - **HUMILITY**
 - **FAITH**
- Place them inside.
- Add:

TOOLS FOR A FAITHFUL LIFE

Faith Connection

These aren't tools Joseph literally used in his workshop.

They represent the **spiritual tools** visible in his life.

When Joseph faced uncertainty, he responded with trust and obedience.

CRAFT 3 — “GOD GUIDES MY STEPS” WOOD-BURN LOOK PLAQUE

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low–Medium

Materials

- Unfinished wooden plaques
- Brown paint pens or permanent markers
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Sandpaper
- Optional wood stain

Directions

- Lightly sand the plaque.
- Sketch a simple path, star, carpenter's square, or cross.
- Trace the design with brown paint pen to imitate woodburning.
- Add:

TRUST GOD

ONE STEP AT A TIME

- Add the Scripture reference from the week's lesson.
- Older students add a small word along the path representing each step:
 - **Listen**
 - **Trust**
 - **Obey**
 - **Go**

Faith Connection

Joseph rarely knew the entire plan in advance.

God showed him what he needed to do, and Joseph responded.

Faith often means taking the **next faithful step** without knowing everything that comes afterward.

CRAFT 4 — HOLY FAMILY SHELTER

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Craft sticks
- Small wood pieces
- Cardboard base
- Glue
- Paint
- Moss or straw
- Small wooden star
- Simple wooden figures, optional

Directions

- Build a simple shelter from craft sticks.
- Add a roof.
- Place a star or cross above it.
- Add simple figures if desired.
- Write along the base:

FAITHFUL IN THE ORDINARY

Faith Connection

Joseph's holiness was largely lived through ordinary responsibilities—working, protecting, providing, listening, and caring for his family.

Students learn that faithfulness doesn't have to look dramatic to matter enormously.

EXTENDED CRAFT — CARPENTER'S STRING-ART CROSS

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Teacher Preparation: High

Materials

- Wooden boards
- Small nails
- Hammer with adult supervision.
- Cross template
- Embroidery floss
- Wood stain or acrylic paint
- Paint pens

Directions

- Paint or stain the board.
- Transfer a cross outline.
- Place small nails around the outline.
- Teachers should pre-place nails when appropriate.
- Wrap embroidery floss from nail to nail.
- Layer the strands until a strong cross shape appears.
- Add:

TRUST • OBEY • PROTECT • SERVE.

- Write **ST. JOSEPH** discreetly at the bottom.

Faith Connection

One strand seems insignificant.

As the strands repeatedly cross and connect, something strong and recognizable appears.

Joseph's life was formed through many quiet acts of obedience. Faithfulness is often built exactly that way—**one faithful choice at a time.**

JOURNALING — ST. JOSEPH

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Journal Prompt

Joseph does not speak a single recorded word in the Gospels, yet his actions tell us a great deal about his character.

What can someone's actions communicate that words sometimes cannot?

Joseph obeyed God without knowing exactly how everything would turn out.

Why is trusting God harder when we cannot see the entire plan?

Think about this statement:

“Faithfulness is often quiet.”

Do you agree? Why?

Finish:

“I can show faithfulness in ordinary life by...”

Optional Grades 5–6

Joseph showed his faith through what he did. What is one action that can show someone you love God?

WEEK 12 — ST. MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD

Obedience • Humility • Trust in God's Promise

Your curriculum deliberately centers this lesson on Mary's obedience, humility, and trust in God's promise.

Here I want the crafts to be **beautiful and reverent**, not cutesy.

CRAFT 1 — “BE IT UNTO ME” CLAY HEART

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes plus drying

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Air-dry clay
- Rolling pins
- Heart templates
- Clay tools
- Small cross stamps
- Letter stamps, optional
- Blue ribbon
- Acrylic paint

Directions

- Roll the clay.
- Shape or cut a heart.
- Make a hanging hole.
- Press a small cross into the center.
- Add:

FIAT

or

BE IT UNTO ME

- Decorate the border with simple lilies, stars, or vines.
- Allow to dry.
- Paint if desired.
- Add blue ribbon for hanging.

Faith Connection

Mary's "yes" to God was an act of faith.

She didn't understand everything that would happen. She trusted God's promise and willingly accepted what He asked of her.

CRAFT 2 — MAGNIFICAT GLASS LANTERN

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Glass jars
- Blue, white, gold, and purple tissue paper
- Mod Podge
- Foam brushes
- Gold paint pens
- Black card stock
- Battery-operated tea lights

Directions

- Cover the jar with overlapping tissue pieces.
- Add a cross or star silhouette.
- Write:

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD

- Add **Luke 1:46**.
- Place a battery-operated light inside once dry.

Faith Connection

The Magnificat shows that Mary's response to God's grace was **praise**.

The light reminds students that Mary's vocation points beyond herself to the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.

CRAFT 3 — WOVEN “YES TO GOD” CROSS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Wooden crosses
- Blue, white, and gold yarn or ribbon
- Glue
- Small beads
- Paint pens

Directions

- Wrap and weave ribbon around portions of the cross.
- Add a few beads if desired.
- Keep the cross clearly visible.
- Add:

YES, TO GOD

- On the back write:

Luke 1:38

Faith Connection

Mary's obedience is never separated from Christ.

The cross reminds students where Christ's earthly life ultimately leads and that Mary's discipleship continued beyond the Annunciation.

CRAFT 4 — NATIVITY SILHOUETTE ON CANVAS

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 35–45 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Canvas boards
- Acrylic paints

- Brushes
- Black card stock or black paint
- Nativity silhouette templates
- Glue
- Gold paint pens

Directions

- Paint a night-sky background.
- Add stars or blended light.
- Create or paint a simple silhouette of Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child.
- Keep the design uncluttered.
- Add:

EMMANUEL — GOD WITH US

- Older students may add **Luke 1:38** along the bottom.

Faith Connection

Mary's obedience belongs within the larger story of salvation.

Her “yes” wasn't ultimately about Mary alone. Through her, the promised Savior entered the world.

EXTENDED CRAFT — MAGNIFICAT TEXTILE WALL HANGING

Grades: 5–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Wooden dowels
- Canvas or muslin.
- Blue, white, gold, and natural-colored fabric
- Ribbon
- Yarn

- Fabric glue
- Fabric markers
- Gold paint pens
- Twine

Directions

- Cut a rectangular piece of canvas.
- Fold the top around a wooden dowel and glue.
- Layer fabric pieces to create a simple abstract design.
- Include a cross prominently.
- Add:

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD

- Beneath it add:

Luke 1:46

- Incorporate blue ribbon or fabric without allowing decoration to overwhelm the Scripture.
- Older students may add three words from Mary's example:

FAITH • HUMILITY • OBEDIENCE

- Attach twine to the dowel for hanging.

Faith Connection

This is meant to feel more like **sacred textile art** than a Sunday-school worksheet.

The Magnificat reveals Mary's humility: she praises what **God has done**.

The finished hanging can remind students that Christian discipleship begins by receiving God's grace and responding faithfully.

JOURNALING — ST. MARY

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Scripture

Luke 1:38

“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”

Journal Prompt

Mary said yes to God without knowing every detail of what her future would hold.

There is a difference between **blindly doing whatever someone tells you** and **trusting God because of who God is**.

Why does trust make obedience possible?

What do you think Mary's response teaches Christians about humility?

Consider this:

Sometimes saying “yes” to God means saying “no” to something easier.

What might that look like for a Christian your age?

Finish:

“I can say yes to God by...”

Optional Grades 5–6

Mary trusted God's promise. What helps you remember that God can be trusted?

WEEK 13 — ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

Generosity • Compassion • Quiet Charity

And this one should be **fun**. The existing guide ends with a Secret Giving Envelope, Charity Heart Bookmark, and Giving Tree Poster.

For our final week, I want students to move from **making something about generosity to actually practicing generosity**.

CRAFT 1 — ST. NICHOLAS SECRET-GIFT BAG

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Small canvas drawstring bags
- Fabric paint
- Fabric markers

Anglican Saints Curriculum

- Cross stencils
- Gold cord
- Gift tags

Directions

- Decorate the bag with simple Christian symbols.
- Add:

GIVE IN SECRET

- Add **Matthew 6:3–4**.
- Make a gift tag that says only:

YOU ARE LOVED

- Students choose something small to place inside later.
- The gift is to be given without seeking recognition.

Faith Connection

The important part of this craft happens **after Sunday School**.

Students practice giving without needing applause, credit, or thanks.

CRAFT 2 — THREE GOLD COINS OF GENEROSITY

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Medium

Materials

- Air-dry clay
- Round cutters
- Gold acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes
- Letter stamps
- Small cloth bags

Directions

Anglican Saints Curriculum

- Form three clay coins.
- Stamp a cross into one side.
- On the reverse stamp or write:
 - **GIVE**
 - **LOVE**
 - **SERVE**
- Allow to dry.
- Paint gold.
- Place the three coins into a small cloth bag.

Faith Connection

The three gold pieces recall the traditional story of Nicholas secretly providing help to a family in need.

The emphasis isn't on treasure.

It's on **using what we have to help another person.**

CRAFT 3 — ANONYMOUS KINDNESS ORNAMENT

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

Time: 25–35 minutes

Cleanup: Low

Materials

- Clear fillable ornaments
- Paper strips
- Ribbon
- Paint pens
- Small crosses
- Twine

Directions

- Decorate the outside simply.

- Add:

GIVE • LOVE • SERVE.

- Write acts of kindness on strips of paper:
 - Help without being asked.
 - Encourage someone.
 - Give something away.
 - Pray for someone.
 - Include someone lonely.
 - Do a chore secretly.
- Fold and place them inside.
- Each week, choose one action to complete.

Faith Connection

Generosity includes money and possessions, but it is much larger.

We can give **time, attention, encouragement, service, forgiveness, and prayer.**

CRAFT 4 — ST. NICHOLAS SHOE OF GENEROSITY

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 30–40 minutes

Cleanup: Low–Medium

Materials

- Felt
- Shoe/boot template
- Yarn
- Large plastic needles
- Hole punch
- Fabric markers
- Ribbon

Directions

- Cut two matching shoe or boot shapes from felt.
- Punch evenly spaced holes.
- Sew the pieces together with yarn.
- Leave the top open.
- Decorate with a small cross.
- Add:

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE

- Place a small gift, prayer card, or act-of-kindness card inside.

Faith Connection

This draws on the tradition of leaving small gifts in shoes associated with St. Nicholas.

But the lesson remains centered on **Christian generosity**, not simply receiving treats.

EXTENDED CRAFT — ST. NICHOLAS “GIVE IT AWAY” SERVICE PROJECT

Grades: 4–8

Difficulty: Extended

Time: 45–60 minutes

Cleanup: Varies

This is the one week where I think our Extended Craft should deliberately become a **service craft**.

Possible Projects

Choose **one** depending on parish/community needs:

- Decorate reusable tote bags and fill them with food.
- Create toiletry bags for a shelter.
- Make Christmas cards for veterans or nursing home residents.
- Decorate fleece blankets for someone in need.
- Assemble children's activity bags for a hospital or shelter.
- Create “welcome bags” for visitors or families in need.
- Make small prayer crosses to give away.

Materials

Materials depend on the chosen project, plus:

- Gift tags
- Scripture cards
- Markers
- Ribbon
- Cross stickers or stamps
- Bags or boxes

Directions

- Explain the recipient and purpose before beginning.
- Have students make or decorate the item carefully.
- Encourage them to make something **they themselves would be happy to receive**.
- Add a Scripture or encouragement card.
- Do not have students put their full names on the gifts.
- Pray together for the recipients.
- Deliver the gifts through the parish or appropriate ministry.

Faith Connection

This is the culmination of thirteen weeks.

We've studied saints who witnessed, forgave, traveled, taught, prayed, served, obeyed, and gave.

Now the students **do something**.

Nicholas becomes more than a historical person they learned about. His example prompts an act of Christian charity.

JOURNALING — ST. NICHOLAS

Grades: 7–8

Optional: Grades 5–6

Journal Prompt

Imagine doing something wonderful for another person and **never telling anyone you did it**.

Would that make the act harder?

Why do people sometimes want others to notice their generosity?

Jesus teaches us not to give simply to receive praise.

What changes when we give because we genuinely love someone rather than because we want recognition?

Generosity also isn't limited to money.

List something you can give from each category:

TIME — TALENT — POSSESSIONS — ATTENTION — SERVICE — PRAYER

Then choose **one** that you can secretly give this week.

Finish:

“Christian generosity means...”

Optional Grades 5–6

If you could secretly do one kind thing for someone this week, what would you do and why?