

# Goodnight Jesus

## Lesson: Meet the Saints

[www.angelamisaacs.com](http://www.angelamisaacs.com)

The words and pictures in *Goodnight Jesus* may be simple but they draw from deep wells of knowledge and tradition about our faith.

These lessons and activities are designed to help children explore some of the topics introduced in *Goodnight Jesus*. These can be used in Church School classes, by homeschoolers, or by parents at home. I've given age ranges for each lesson but they are flexible enough to be used with wide age ranges.

You can find links and more ideas on my website: [www.angelamisaacs.com](http://www.angelamisaacs.com)

Get your copy of Goodnight Jesus at <http://store.ancientfaith.com/goodnight-jesus-board-book/>

**ANGELA ISAACS**

# MEET THE SAINTS

## (Upper elementary)

Meet the Saints and icons featured in *Goodnight Jesus*. Why were they chosen? See if your answer matches mine.

### You will need:

Copies of the crossword puzzle on the next page and something for kids to write with.

### How to teach this:

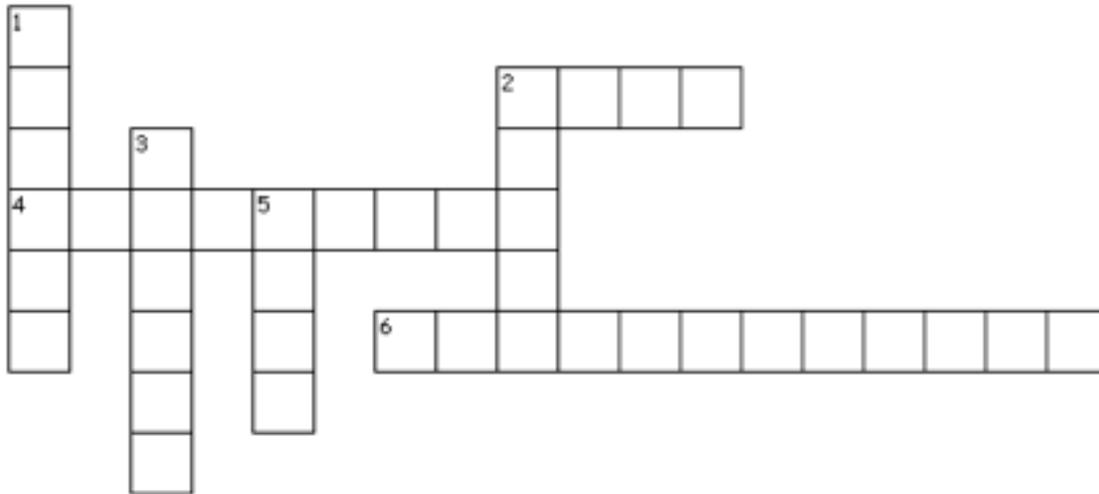
1. Introduce the lesson: "Today we are going to learn about some of the saints honored in our church. I'm going to read *Goodnight Jesus*. As you listen see if you can name every Saint mentioned."
2. Read *Goodnight Jesus* together.
3. Go back through the book page by page and ask which Saints are mentioned on each page. The first few are mentioned by name and are easy. Not all children will have heard of the "the three in the fire" aka The Three Holy Youths. The "women, first to know" may also stump them. If none of the children can explain these stories, give them a short description.
4. Crossword puzzle. Give each child a copy of the crossword puzzle and let them complete it. They may need help with spelling.
5. Discussion point: Ask the children why they think the author chose these saints for the book. Is there any reason why these saints would be especially good to know? Make a list of all the reasons they can think of. Then compare it to my answer below and let the kids answer the question at the end

**The author's answer:** "When I was writing this book, I thought about the Saints that would be most important and most special to the child reading the book. Our Lord Jesus Christ and His mother, Mary, should definitely be in the book but who else? St. John the Baptist is on the Iconostasis next to Jesus Christ in every church. So that is one icon every child will see. Next

time you're in liturgy look for his scratchy hair shirt. The icon of Jesus Christ knocking down the gates of Hades is in most churches as well. Others I included because kids can relate to them. Most kids (and short adults like me!) can relate to Zacchaeus being too small to see what's happening. I also wanted to include both men and women, since we are all called to be Saints. The Myrrh-bearing women were the only ones to tend Jesus at his tomb. Their faithfulness and courage was rewarded. They heard the message of the resurrection before anyone else. There are so many wonderful Saints that it was hard to pick! Which Saint would you add?"

# GOODNIGHT JESUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

- 2. Wears a hair shirt.
- 4. Another name for St. Mary.
- 6. The myrrh-bearing women were the first to know about the \_\_\_\_\_.

Down

- 1. An angel protected the three Holy \_\_\_\_\_ from the fire.
- 2. His icon is always to the right of the holy doors.
- 3. The dragon slayer.
- 5. St. Zaccheaus had to climb a \_\_\_\_\_ to see Jesus.