



In this Psalm, the author thinks of the year as a queen whose crown is made of the wonderful gifts of the harvest. Ask children how they might make a crown which would show this. Maybe they might use fall coloured bristol board (yellow, orange, brown) to cut out a simple crown shape and use leaves or pressed flowers for decoration.

Another harvest idea is to make the crown around a paper or foil plate, so that it will hold something, and to fill it up with a gift for someone who is elderly or shut-in - fruit or small cakes or cookies perhaps.

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October 4, St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis liked to think that all God's creation was part of his family. He called the sun, the wind, and fire his brothers and the moon, water and earth his sisters, and he composed a beautiful hymn of praise called "The Canticle of the Sun." We know it as "All Creatures of our God and King".

St. Francis was born in 1182. His family was rich, but Francis had a vision of Jesus when he was twenty, and decided to live in poverty and care for the poor and crippled. He had a "rule of life." It was not a list of things **not** allowed, like our rules sometimes are, but a list of things he hoped to be and do. Read the prayer of St. Francis, "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" and talk about what a rule like this might mean.

Read a library book about St. Francis, or look him up on the internet. Make a poster of "All Creatures of our God and King". Print one or two of your favourite verses on some paper and stick it in the middle of a sheet of bristol board. Make a collage of things you have cut from old magazines around the words, or draw and colour your own pictures to go with the verses.

October 7, Thanksgiving

*"You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.*

*May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.*

Psalm 65:11-13, BAS

October 18, St. Luke

Luke probably wrote both the gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. He was a medical doctor or physician, a Gentile and a travelling companion for St Paul on many of his missionary journeys. There are many healing stories in Luke and Acts. Read one or two e.g. Luke 17:11-19, Luke 18:35-43, Acts 3:1-10.

Younger children might enjoy acting out a healing miracle. Ask them to think about the words the characters in the story might say to each other before they add the actions to their play.

Encourage older children to think of ways in which healing might happen in non-medical ways. E.g. through forgiveness, through being a friend to someone, through helping someone learn something.

Listen for the names of the sick in your congregation if you are in church for the prayers. If not, maybe the Sunday School might include prayers for the sick in the worship time. Does your church print the names of the sick in the bulletin? Take it home and pray during the week for these people.

A couple of "harvest" jokes

What do you give a hurt lemon?

A leek.

What vegetable needs a plumber?
A lemonade of course.