



Leader's guide

Things you'll need:

- Prayer table/focal point- cross, Bible, candle
- **SVP Year of Jubilee PowerPoint Presentation**
- 'Doors of Hope' spoken word, printed for those who are reading **(Appendix 1)**, or access to link to video.
- 'Doors of Hope' poster for each classroom door **(Appendix 2)**.
- Wreath project **(Appendix 3)**.

Step-by-step guide:

Every 25 years, we have a Jubilee Year, a moment of significance in the Church when we refocus and open ourselves to special graces. This Jubilee Year is entitled 'Pilgrims of Hope' and starts on Christmas Eve 2024, going through to Epiphany 2026. A symbol of a Jubilee Year is often a Holy Door. These doors are entrances into sacred spaces, and in this upcoming Jubilee Year, when our focus will be hope, the Holy Door in Rome will be opened, and people will be invited, as pilgrims of hope, to journey through it. A pilgrimage is a journey where there is an expectation of meeting God. This year, behind every door we open, we should expect to encounter God and it is the theme 'Doors of Hope' that the SVP will be reflecting on during this time of pilgrimage.

GATHER

Make a prayer table/ focal point. Have some reflective background music on to create a beautiful atmosphere to get ready for the upcoming Year of Jubilee. Display **Slide 1** of the presentation.

Invite those who are able to to make the sign of the cross and say the opening prayer together **(Slide 2)**.

LISTEN

Explain to the children a little about the Year of Jubilee **(Slide 3)** and build up to the Holy Door by asking if they recognise some other famous doors beforehand **(Slides 4-11)**. **Slide 12 and 13** introduces them to the Holy Door in Rome and unpacks the significance on **Slide 14** 'Pilgrim of Hope'. Invite the children forward who are going to do the spoken word, or play the video embedded in the presentation (display **Slide 15** while this is being read). You may like to create this into a drama as well to bring it to life a bit more for the assembly.

RESPOND

Discuss the importance of how God uses us to bring hope to others when we open new doors. It's a chance to open the door to Jesus and to bring Jesus to others as we do so. Ask the children the questions **(Slide 16)**.





Example answers:

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they were offered a stable for shelter by the innkeeper?

They probably felt very grateful after being turned away so many times before. They were probably still very worried about what the future held, but knew that God would protect them by providing the help they needed.

Your classroom door is a 'Door of Hope'. How can you make sure those who come through it feel welcomed and loved?

Welcome new students, offer help to your teacher when they come in, invite someone to sit next to you in class, make sure the room is tidy.

What doors do you open where you can share God's love?

Classroom door, front door, car door, door of your place of worship, canteen door, library door.

Draw the children's attention to **Slide 17** to unpack the SVP's focus on 'Doors of Hope'.

As we prepare to start this Year of Jubilee, and go on our pilgrimage of hope, let's think about the things that we hope for ourselves, our communities, our world or our loved ones. You could take a few examples from the children here before they complete their call to action.

SEND FORTH

Share with the children the two calls to action that they might like to get involved in (**Slide 18**), which will be a lovely way to get the school ready for the Year of Jubilee. Finish the assembly with the closing prayer (**Slide 19**), which can be said by everyone, and invite those who can to end with the sign of the cross.

