



Mini Vinnies School Leavers' Reflection: "Looking Back, Stepping Forward"

Leader's guide

Time: 15–30 minutes

Suitable for: Year 6 Mini Vinnies

Aim of activity: Reflect, give thanks, look ahead, and stay inspired by the spirit of St Vincent de Paul.

Welcome & Opening Thought (2–3 mins)

Leader says:

"As Mini Vinnies, your small acts of kindness have made a big difference! Today we're going to take a moment to look back at your time in primary school, say thank you, and think about how you can take your Mini Vinnies' spirit with you as you move into secondary school."

Activity One: Memory Chain (10 mins)

What you will need:

- Paper strips (coloured if possible)
- pens, stapler or glue/tape

Instructions:

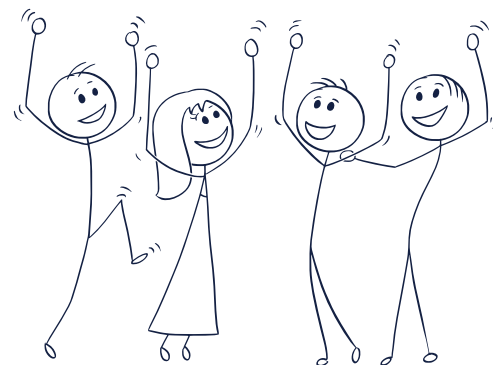
Each child writes one favourite memory from their time as a Mini Vinnie or something kind they've done for others (e.g. "Made Christmas cards for the care home").

On a second strip, they write something they are thankful for from primary school.

On a third, they write a hope or goal for the future (e.g. "To help others in my new school"). Link the strips together to form a class "Memory & Mission Chain".

Reflection:

"Each link is a memory, a thank you, and a hope. Just like these links, we are connected by kindness, by service, and by love."



St Vincent
de Paul Society

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Activity Two: "Vincentian Vision" Passport (10 mins)

What you will need:

- Small folded "Vincentian Vision passports" (These can be printed directly off as booklets on your printer.)

Inside the passport:

- My Name
- My Primary School Superpower (What you're really good at!)
- A Vincentian Value I Want to Keep Living Out (Kindness, compassion, helping the lonely...)
- One Way I Can Be a Mini Vinnie in Secondary School (e.g. "Join a social action group", "Help a friend who's alone", "Keep praying for others")
- My Mini Vinnie Motto for Year 7 (e.g. "See the face of Christ in everyone" or "Small acts, big difference")
- A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let them decorate their passports.

Closing Reflection & Prayer (5 mins)

Leader:

"St Vincent de Paul taught us that love is not just words but actions. Your journey as a Mini Vinnie doesn't stop here—it grows with you as you move on."

Prayer (can be read together):

Loving God, Thank you for the friends we've made, the people we've helped, and the lessons we've learned. Help us carry the Mini Vinnies spirit with us—to see, think, and do just like Jesus did. Guide us in our new schools and new adventures. Amen.

Optional: Hand out Mini Vinnie "Recognition" certificates. Give them something tangible to mark their time as Mini Vinnies and to encourage them to keep the spirit alive in their next chapter. You might like to gift them a Mini Vinnies' prayer book or Vinnie Bear keyring.



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