



Make a prayerful space – activity

Leader's guide

Prayer is a very important part of being a Mini Vinnie. Through prayer, we can ask for guidance, inspiration, and the strength to help those in need. It helps us remember to spread Christ's love and care to others.

Objective: Children will work together to create a prayerful space in their classroom or school, linking to the values of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. They will reflect on how prayer can inspire kindness and service to others.

You will need:

- Large sheets of paper
- Coloured pens, pencils or crayons
- Small battery-operated candles
- Pictures or symbols related to kindness, helping others, and prayer (e.g. St. Vincent de Paul logo, helping hands, hearts)
- Bibles or printed prayers (optional)
- Ribbons, fabric, or other decorative materials
- Small objects that represent kindness or service, such as a toy food item (representing helping the hungry), toy clothes/household items (representing helping share resources)

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Start by briefly talking about the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Explain that the Society is all about helping people in need with kindness and love. They do this through prayer and action.
- Discuss how prayer can guide us in our own lives, helping us show love and care for others as Mini Vinnies.
- Explain that today the group will work together to create a prayerful space in the classroom that reflects these values.



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

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Brainstorm and Plan the Prayer Space (5 minutes):

- Ask the children what they think makes a space "prayerful" or "special." Discuss ideas such as peacefulness, symbols of love or kindness, and things that remind us to pray.
- Encourage the children to think about how the St. Vincent de Paul Society helps others and how they can represent this in the space. For example, they could include images of people helping each other, symbols of prayer (like praying hands), or quotes from the Bible about love and kindness.
- Discuss the importance of prayer in the work of helping others, and ask them how they can incorporate this into their prayer space. They can suggest ideas like a small prayer corner, or even a "kindness tree" with written prayers for others.

Create the Prayer Space (8 minutes):

Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a part of the prayer space to decorate. Each group can work on one of the following:

- A Prayer Poster: Decorate a large piece of paper with symbols of kindness (hearts, helping hands, etc.), a short prayer, or a Bible verse like "Love one another" (John 13:34).
- Kindness Tree: Create a tree with branches made from paper or fabric, and have the children write small prayers or acts of kindness on paper leaves (e.g., "I will help my friend with their homework" or "I will pray for the hungry").
- Prayer Corner: Decorate a corner with small candles (battery-operated for safety), Bibles or prayer cards, and any other meaningful symbols (e.g., a picture of St. Vincent de Paul or images of people helping).
- As they decorate, encourage them to think about how each element of the space can reflect the values of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and their own commitment to kindness and prayer.



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Set Up the Prayer Space (2 minutes):

- Once all the groups have finished, bring everything together to create the prayerful space in a central area of the classroom.
- Arrange the decorated posters, the kindness tree, and any other items in a way that makes the space peaceful and welcoming. You might place the battery-operated candles in the centre to symbolise light, warmth, and prayer.

Reflection and Prayer (5 minutes):

- Gather the class around the newly created prayer space. Ask the children to reflect quietly for a moment about the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and how they can help others through kindness and prayer.
- Lead a short prayer, thanking God for the opportunity to help others and asking for the strength to be kind, loving, and helpful, just like St. Vincent de Paul. Here's an example prayer:

"Dear God, thank you for showing us how to love and help others. We ask you to bless this prayer space, and help us to remember that we can always serve others with kindness. Please guide us to be generous and caring, just like St. Vincent de Paul. Amen."

End the Activity:

- Encourage the children to use the prayer space during the week, either individually or as a class. They can say a prayer for others in need or add a new prayer or kind act to the kindness tree each day.
- Remind them that as Mini Vinnies they can make a difference in the world through prayer and acts of kindness.



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