



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke: 12: 49–53

"I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Some things to think about

Why do we argue with our friends or family? Is it ever useful to have an argument? What is the different between a fight and a debate?

Activity

1. Put two posters ("Agree" and "Disagree" at opposite ends of the room
2. Everyone starts in the middle of the room.
3. The teacher reads out a statement.
4. Pupils walk to the side of the room that best matches how they feel.
5. After each statement, the teacher can ask a few students to explain why they chose that side. Then, offer everyone the chance to change position if someone's view made them think differently.

Mini Vinnies–Themed Statements to Spark Thoughtful Discussion:

1. It's more important to be kind than to be clever.
2. Everyone should do at least one act of kindness every day.
3. It's OK to walk past someone who needs help if you're in a hurry.
4. Year 6 pupils should help younger students in the playground.
5. We should be allowed to use our phones at school.
6. Uniform is important because it makes everyone equal.
7. Being a Mini Vinnie means you have to be perfect all the time.
8. Helping others helps me feel good too.
9. One person can't really make a big difference in the world.
10. I want to keep living the Mini Vinnies values when I go to secondary school.

Follow-up Reflection (Optional – 5 mins)

Ask the pupils:

- "Did anyone change their mind? Why?"
- "Which statement was hardest to decide on?"
- "What did you learn about yourself or others?"

Materials needed for the activity

Two posters and discussion questions

Teacher's Notes

We often argue with friends, family, and even see public figures do the same — but why? In this week's Gospel, Jesus says he came not to bring peace, but division. This challenges us to think: what happens if no one speaks up about problems?

Change often begins through questioning, discussion, and even conflict. That's how the Christian Church formed — people talked about Jesus and re-examined their beliefs.

Politicians, too, debate how best to serve people and the planet. These disagreements can lead to better solutions. Frederic Ozanam and his friends asked why Social Justice and the Church were separate. Through their discussions and actions, they formed a Catholic group dedicated to both faith and service.

Sometimes, raising difficult questions and facing conflict is necessary to address injustice and bring about change.

Jesus is still a bringer of peace, but it is not brought about at any price; God's word cannot be compromised. However, even in non-peaceful situations Jesus in Luke's Gospel calls for forgiveness, reconciliation and loving of enemies, as we've seen in other texts read during this liturgical year.