



A Ticket to Dignity

Leader's guide

Aim of the session:

To help children reflect on the importance of dignity when helping others, and to explore creative, kind ways of offering help that respect people's pride and feelings.

Time: 15–20 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Printed or projected version of the story
- “Secret Support Ideas” worksheet or large paper
- Pencils or markers
- Optional: Raffle ticket printouts or cut-up paper

Instructions:

Opening Discussion (3–5 mins)

Ask:

- *Have you ever needed help but felt shy or awkward asking for it?*
- *Why do you think some people don't like to accept help, even when they really need it?*

Invite a moment of silence and pray together:

Jesus, help us to give with kindness and to respect each person's dignity. Amen.

Use this time to explain the word 'dignity' to the children:

Dignity means treating every person like they are important and special, because they are! God made each one of us with love, and that means everyone deserves to be respected, no matter what they look like, where they come from, or what they're going through.

Story Time (5 mins)

Read the story aloud or tell it in your own words. Then ask:

- Why didn't the mother want help from the SVP?
- What did the raffle do that made it easier for her to accept the prize?
- How did this small act of kindness become something remembered for years?

Explain:

Sometimes people want to keep their pride, especially when they're trying hard to manage on their own. Helping in quiet or creative ways can really honour their dignity.



Activity: “Secret Support Ideas” (5–7 mins)

Give the children paper or use a whiteboard to brainstorm:

How could you help someone who needs support without making them feel uncomfortable or embarrassed?

Encourage ideas such as:

- Creating a “lucky dip” prize box with useful things
- Making gift parcels that look like presents
- Inviting someone to a fun event that also offers free lunch
- Anonymous kindness notes or surprise deliveries
- Class “raffles” with everyone entered — but rigged to bless someone in need!

Optional: Use pretend raffle tickets and have the children each write or draw a kind “prize” they’d give someone who might need it (e.g. “a warm coat”, “a hot dinner”, “a free hug”).

Call to Action: “Mission: Dignity” (3–5 mins)

Challenge the Mini Vinnies:

This week, try to give or offer kindness in a way that puts someone else’s feelings first. How can you help in a way that makes someone feel honoured rather than helped?

Invite children to share one small way they could try this:

- “I’ll let my friend borrow something without making a fuss.”
- “I’ll do a kind thing without telling anyone it was me.”

Write these on a group poster: “Mini Vinnies: Quiet Helpers, Big Hearts”

Optional Extension/Follow-Up:

- Run a real raffle in the school or parish where every prize is something useful or encouraging, but everyone is entered equally.
- Create an anonymous “Kindness Club” with secret missions to help classmates quietly.



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At a recent National Meeting of members, a Bishop shared stories about how his own family had been helped by the SVP. He also shared a story which had long inspired him in faith and charity.

Many years ago, a mother of two, whose husband had died suddenly, was finding it hard to pay for the things she needed. She worked hard to ensure that the children's worn-out shoes were polished, and their patched uniforms were clean.

The local SVP were very keen to offer support, but the lady did not consider herself to be in need. She didn't want to take charity from the SVP or the local parish.

One day, the parish decided to hold a raffle, which was supported by the local butchers. The prize was for a year's supply of meat. This lady bought one ticket, and you'll never guess who went on to win! She did!

The Bishop doesn't know whether there was any bending of rules, but everybody noticed that the winner was always the person who needed the prize the most