



## From Ideas to Action

### Leader's guide

#### Aim of the session:

To help children reflect on empathy, initiative, and teamwork, and take practical action to help others, inspired by the Mini Vinnies at St Mary's.

**Time:** 25–30 minutes

#### What you will need:

- Paper or card
- Coloured pencils, felt-tip pens, crayons
- Scissors, glue, stickers, or decorative items (optional)
- Envelopes or small paper boxes (optional)

#### Story Reflection (2–3 mins):

- Share the story of the Year 6 Mini Vinnies at St Mary's who organised a coffee afternoon to raise money for people affected by the war in Ukraine. Highlight how they noticed a need, asked for help, and worked together to make a difference.

#### Discussion (3–4 mins):

Ask:

- How did the Mini Vinnies show concern for people in need?
- Why was teamwork important?
- What small actions could we take to help others in our community?

#### Craft Activity – “Kindness Posters or Invitation Cards” (10–12 mins):

- Children create a small poster or card for a kindness project they would like to organise.
- Encourage them to include:
  - The name of their project (e.g., bake sale, coffee afternoon, collection)
  - Who it will help
  - How people can take part or donate
- They can decorate their poster or card with drawings, colours, and stickers to make it bright and inviting—just like the Mini Vinnies' posters for their coffee afternoon.

#### Realistic Follow-Up Call to Action (5 mins):

- Collect the children's ideas and choose one small project the group can actually do at school or at home. Examples:
  - Organise a small bake sale or coffee afternoon to raise money for a charity.
  - Create a collection of food, toiletries, or warm clothing for a local charity.
  - Make cards or drawings to send to children or families affected by crisis.
- Encourage the children to plan one practical step they can take this term to put their idea into action.

#### Closing Prayer (2 mins):

*Lord, thank You for showing us how we can help others in need, just like the Mini Vinnies at St Mary's did for the people of Ukraine.*

*Help us to notice when someone needs our support, to work together, and to turn our concern into action.*

*May our small projects and acts of kindness bring hope and show Your love to those around us.*

*Amen.*

If you or someone you know needs help from the SVP, go to [Info@svp.org.uk](mailto:Info@svp.org.uk)



## From Ideas to Action

On 15th March 2022, Year 6 children at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Northampton held a coffee afternoon to raise funds for the people from Ukraine. They were all talking about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and they were watching Newsround daily for updates. They were concerned about the families fleeing their homes and, as Mini Vinnies, wanted to put their concern into action.

Their teacher asked them what we would like to do, and everyone agreed they should hold a coffee afternoon, just as they had done for the bush fires in Australia, just before Covid-19. They started by writing letters to the local shops and supermarkets asking for any donations they could give the school for a coffee afternoon. They were inundated with tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits, cakes, and milk. Everyone was very excited, and they created posters to send home to the parents and put up around the school.

The day came and the teachers helped the Mini Vinnies to set up the hall ready to welcome the parents. The afternoon was a great success and they raised £311 for a charity the SVP are supporting: Depaul International Emergency Appeal. The charity has a team of people in Romania and in Ukraine helping and supporting anyone who needs it.

The Mini Vinnies at St Mary's had so much tea and coffee left that they planned to hold more afternoons during the following term and continue to raise money for Ukraine