



# TO THE HEIGHTS

LIVING MISSION, JUBILEE AND BEYOND

## To the Heights Challenge: Leader's Session Plan

**Aim of session:** For the children to have a good understanding of the SVP To the Heights Challenge and consider how they, as a group, are going to fundraise for it.

### What you will need for the session:

- Leader's session plan
- Accompanying PowerPoint slides
- To the Heights Challenge A3 target poster
- Optional: A4 copy of poster for each child
- Access to computers to research mountains
- Pens/pencils
- Sponsorship Forms (1 per child)
- SVP Mini Vinnies Fundraising Pack

### Steps for session:

**Slide 2:** Explain the aim of the session to the children: they are going to find out about a summer challenge they can take part in with the SVP, called To the Heights Challenge.

**Slide 3:** Start your meeting with the opening prayer (led by a child)

*Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us together today. Help us to be kind, to help others, and to try our best in everything we do. As we learn about going "to the heights", help us grow closer to you.*

*Amen.*

**Slide 4:** Explain to the children what the To the Heights Challenge is.

Pick a mountain for your "To the Heights" challenge and try to reach the summit! There are three ways you could get involved:

- Cover the distance by walking, swimming or some other means and asking for sponsorship.
- Give up your time (the time it takes to climb) to learn a new skill, or through serving others in your community and asking for sponsorship.
- Fundraise in other ways and use the height of the mountain as your fundraising target. For ideas of how to fundraise, [click here](#), or visit the SVP website.

**Slide 5:** This session is specifically focused on the fundraising side of the challenge. Use this time as a group to do some research of mountains and their height. Discuss what a realistic target would be for your group to aim for.

**Slide 6:** We are inspired by Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, a former SVP member. Though he died at just 24, Pier Giorgio lived his faith with joy, balancing prayer, friendship, study, and service to the poor. He loved the mountains, seeing each climb as a symbol of faith. His motto “Verso l’Alto”, which means “To the heights”, reminds us to keep striving higher in life and in our journey with Christ. Like him, SVP members are ordinary people making an extraordinary difference. With around 9,000 members across England and Wales, we tackle poverty in all its forms, offering practical support to those in need.

Our “To the Heights” fundraiser will be a chance to climb higher in our faith and Mini Vinnies mission and lift others with us.

**Slide 7:** How does the SVP use donations to support people in need? Spend a bit of time discussing this question before moving on to the matching activity on slide 8.

**Slide 8:** As a group, have a read of some of the different ways the SVP uses people’s generous donations. Take a guess at matching the amounts of money to each resource.

**Slide 9:** This slide shows the answers to the matching exercise. Spend a bit of time discussing each one, and get the children’s thoughts and reactions.

**Slide 10:** As a group, decide on the mountain and its height you are working towards for your challenge. Divide the group into smaller groups to give them time to come up with their own fundraising event(s) to complete this challenge. You might like to use our Mini Vinnies Fundraising Kit to help with their planning. Give them time at the end to present their ideas to the rest of the group. You might choose to vote for the best one or map out how you could use all ideas over an academic year.

**Slide 11:** Once decided, complete your group’s target poster (ideally A3) to be a reminder of the journey ahead. You can give each child an A4 version to take home with them and set some dates with the children with when things are going to take place.

**Slide 12:** Finish your session with the closing prayer (led by a child).