

This resource has been produced by the St Vincent de Paul Society. The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is a Catholic international volunteer organisation whose members work with anyone in need in their local community – the homeless, the elderly, prisoners, struggling families, people who are sick and lonely. Young people are an important part of the Vincentian family. We are all called to be like Jesus by helping people, becoming their friend and working with others to make a difference. Find out more and view our school resources by visiting **svp.org.uk/youth-svp**

Leaders Guide

Many Stories, One Light

God did not create one kind of person, one type of work, or one way of being. He created a human family where each of us is called to reflect His love and become a light for others.
Many Stories, One Light celebrates the diversity of people, experiences, gifts, and vocations that make up our communities, united by a shared commitment to putting faith into action.Through four themes - Belong, Grow, Serve, and Shine - the SVP invites people of all ages to journey together. We are called to belong to communities rooted in friendship and faith, grow in compassion and confidence, serve with purpose through acts of love and justice, and shine as signs of hope in the world around us.

Before you begin: Create a reverent, quiet and comfortable space for the group gathered.
Ensure that the sacred space is set up with a focal point.

For this session you will need:
• Presentation slides

GATHER

Slides 2-9: The reflection begins with a short interactive game around identifying zoomed in lights. This can be played in teams or individually.
Have a look through and decide how best to play it in your setting. Answers are below

Slide 2- A lighthouse
Slide 3- A traffic light
Slide 4- Olympic torch
Slide 5- Lava lamp
Slide 6- Disco ball
Slide 7- Candle
Slide 8- Lightbulb
Slide 9- Match

Slide 10- **Leader:** What do all these things have in common?

You could allow time for discussion and take some ideas if you would like. The following slides could be read by the leader, or could be shared out amongst readers.

Slide 11: They all bring light.
They help people see.
They offer guidance.
They make a difference to the people around them.

Slide 12: But they do it in different ways.

Slide 13: The same is true of people.
God created us differently because the world needs different kinds of light.



LISTEN

Slide 14: We make the sign of the cross together and reflect for a moment at the light we can bring to others.
Slide 15: *Click play (with sound on)*
Slide 16: *You could ask a participant to read the scripture for you*
You could then ask someone to read the following reflection

When Jesus says, "You are the light of the world," he isn't talking to a select group of people who have it all together.... He's speaking to everyone.

Not because we're perfect, and not because we always know what we're doing, but because God has a way of working through ordinary lives. You notice it when someone quietly helps another person without making a fuss. Or when someone brings calm to a situation that felt tense. Or when a person simply shows up for a friend who needs them.

In the Vincentian tradition, a way of living the Gospel inspired by St Vincent de Paul, we believe that every person has God-given dignity and that faith is something we put into action. It means noticing people who might otherwise be overlooked, seeing Christ in them, and responding with love in a way that is practical and real. In that same tradition, holiness has never really been about standing out or being seen. It's about noticing people properly and allowing God's love to reach them through us.

RESPOND

Slide 17: The challenge for us this year is simple:
Can we notice the light in people whose stories are different from our own?
Can we allow our own light to shine for others?

We take a moment to pause and bring our thoughts and prayers together before the One whose light we carry into the world through our words and actions.

Slide 18: God of light,
help us to carry your light into this new year.
May we use our gifts generously,
welcome one another warmly,
and bring hope to those we meet.
May our many stories reflect your one light.
Amen.

Slide 19: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.