

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

Magnifica Humanitas Reflection

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. These resources support young people to explore the Vincentian mission and discover how their unique story can help bring Christ's light into the world. Together, though our stories may be different, we share one light.

You will need

- *Quote cards (linked here)*
- *Pens*

Choose a card
Lay out the six quote cards and invite each person to choose the quote that stands out to them most.
Explain that the quotes link to our theme, Many Stories, One Light. We all have different stories, experiences and gifts, but we can come together through Christ's love and bring hope to others.

Explore a scenario
Read the following scenarios aloud. Choose one or two that are most relevant to your group.
Scenario 1: Feeling forgotten
An older person living alone rarely has visitors. They have family members, but they do not live nearby, and they can go days without having a meaningful conversation with anyone. People in the neighbourhood see them regularly but rarely stop to talk.

- What might we not know about their circumstances or how they are feeling?
- What could we do to help them feel valued, remembered and connected to their community?

Scenario 2: More than meets the eye
Someone you have been visiting regularly seems different. They are quieter than usual, have stopped talking about the things they used to enjoy and seem reluctant to accept support. You are concerned, but you do not want to make them feel uncomfortable or as though they are being questioned.

- How could you approach the situation with sensitivity and show that you care?
- Why is it important to listen without making assumptions or immediately trying to find a solution?

Scenario 3: Responding to local need
Your local SVP Conference is becoming increasingly aware of families struggling to afford everyday essentials. Some are facing difficult choices between heating their homes, buying food and paying household bills. Your Conference has limited funds and cannot meet every request for financial assistance.

- What could you do to support people beyond providing financial help?
- Who could you work alongside in your local community to understand people's needs and find practical ways to respond?

Encourage the group to share ideas. There is no single right answer.

Make the quote your own
Ask everyone to turn over their quote card and reflect on the following prompts before writing a short prayer in response.

- In my words: What does this Pope Leo quote mean to me?
- In our lives: How does this message connect to the scenario or something I have experienced?
- In prayer: Write a short prayer asking God to help you live out this message.

If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share their thoughts and prayers.

Invite everyone to choose one small action they will try to put into practice during the coming week.
They can keep their prayer card as a reminder.