



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

CONFIRMATION PRAYER TIME





AN OPENING PRAYER

LEADERS GUIDE

Prayer Outline:

Prayer and reflection is fundamental to the life of Vincentian. This simple time of prayer invites young people to begin to see themselves as the 'Present' church able to help make change and support people in need.

What you will need:

- A pen for each person
- Post its , 9-10 for each person
- Pen for each person
- Reflective music to play
- Speaker
- Fruits of the spirit cards

Room Set up:

- A simple prayer focus either at the front or centre of the room, with a candle, cloth and Bible
- Fruits of the spirit printed, cut out and stuck around the room

Leader:

We gather together as a community of faith, remembering to keep Christ at the centre of all that we do. We begin by making the Sign of the Cross together.

All:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader:

For a few moments today we are going to reflect on how we recognise God in the world around us. We are especially going to think about how we might see Jesus in the situations where we see people who might be vulnerable or in need.

Reader 1:

So to begin lets pray

(Pause)

Lord Jesus, help us to meet together in a spirit of simplicity, humility and joy.
Help us to become so close to you that we see with your eyes and love with your heart.
Create in us a community of faith and love, a community of prayer and action.

All:

Amen

Reader 2:

The scriptures have a huge amount to teach us. St Paul wrote letters and one of the people he wrote letters to was a young man called Timothy. In his letter to Timothy St Paul said:

Reader 1:

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, and in faithUntil I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you.'

(1 Timothy 4:12-14)





AN OPENING PRAYER

Leader:

- This letter from St Paul tells us that young people have a huge part to play in leadership in the church.
- We have so many examples of brilliant young people whose faith and enthusiasm have had an impact on the world.

Reflection Point: *In groups of 2 & 3 for 2min: Can you think of 3 young people who have had a positive impact on our world?*

- The St Vincent de Paul society works in countries all around the world reaching out and helping those in need in a really practical way. This organisation was started by a 19 year old student called Frédéric Ozanam in Paris. He was inspired by his faith and wanted to make a difference.
- We all have the ability to have a positive impact on our world like Frédéric. But to work well it's important that we take time to understand the gifts that we have been given and think about how those gifts could best be used in the world.
- At confirmation we receive the gifts and fruits of the Spirit. Those fruits are stuck on the walls around the room now.
- **Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.**
- Each of you has been given some post it notes and in a moment whilst the music plays take a walk around the room by yourself (for these next few moments don't speak with anyone else, but take the challenge to do it on your own.)
- As you wander pause at the fruits and think about the word you see.
- What does that word mean?
- Where have you seen an example of that fruit being lived out?
- Is there somewhere in the world or in our local community that you think especially needs that fruit right now?
- Is there a person you think of when you see that word?
- Whatever comes to mind write on your post it and add to the wall around the word. When the music ends or when you have visited each word come back and join the group. Try and add at least one post it note to each fruit.
- Remember it can be a name, a thought or a group of people in the world.

(Music begins and the group wanders round. Encourage them if needed to keep the silence and to take this time for themselves. You may also want to reiterate the questions you are asking.)

- *Once the group has regathered.*

Reader 1:

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, and in faithUntil I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you.'

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Leader:

Taking time like this to pause and to pray is really important for our relationship with God. To thank God for the examples in our lives who show us how we can express these fruits. To think about how we are being asked to live; and to look around and recognise in our world where help is needed far away and really close to home. So we offer all that has been written to our Father in heaven with a short prayer.

Reader 2:

Lord, make us kind and patient, loving and understanding. Give us the words and willingness to challenge injustice and wrong when we encounter it. Send us out this week, fired with your love, to work for those in need and to put our faith into action. Help us to be more caring in our families, at school and in our communities. Amen.

All:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.