



"Embracing Kindness: The Prodigal Son and Seeing the Best in Others"

A drama workshop

Leader's Guide

The aim of this workshop is for the Mini Vinnies to explore how to see others in the most favourable light and how to make judgments based on kindness and understanding.

They will create and perform a short play that demonstrates these ideas.

*This topic may be sensitive to some children, so make sure to adapt the instructions to cater to the needs of the group (e.g. use examples that are not personal to an individual in your group).

You will need:

- Paper, pencils and felt tips
- Simple props (scarves, hats, etc. for costumes)
- Space for acting (open area)
- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Bible or access to the Prodigal Son story (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Start by asking the children if they know what "judging someone" means. Provide a simple definition, like:

"Judging means making a decision about someone, usually about something they can't change, like the way they look or where they're from."

Ask the children to think of examples of how someone might judge another person.

Read or watch the story of the Prodigal Son. Ask the children who was judgmental in the story and why. Then ask how the father reacted when the son got home. Say that it was the father who judged his son in the best possible light.



St Vincent
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England and Wales
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Activity: Creating the Play (25 minutes)

Brainstorming:

- On the whiteboard, write the following question: "How can we see others in the best possible light?"
- Discuss responses like:
 - "Looking for good things in people."
 - "Understanding that everyone is different and that's okay."
 - "Being kind to others no matter what they look like or where they come from."

Creating the Play:

- Divide the children into small groups (3-4 children per group).
- Ask each group to think of a short scenario where someone is judged in a way that isn't fair or kind. For example:
 - A character is judged because they look different e.g. wearing "uncool" clothing
 - A character is judged because they have trouble reading
- Check each group's topic, making sure that the tone is light
- Each group should come up with a way to show how the situation can be turned around by seeing the person in the most favourable light (focusing on kindness, understanding, and what makes them unique).

Writing the Play:

- Have the children write or act out their ideas. The play should include:
 - A moment where someone is judged.
 - A turning point where the judgment is questioned or challenged.
 - A resolution where the characters learn to appreciate each other for their unique qualities.





Rehearsal:

- Allow the children time to rehearse their short scenes, practising how to deliver their lines with kindness and understanding. Provide simple props (like scarves, hats etc.) for them to use in their performance.

Performance (10 minutes):

- Have each group perform their short play in front of the whole group.
- Encourage the children to cheer each other on and show support during the performances.
- After each play, discuss briefly how the characters learned not to judge and how they could see each other in the best possible light.

Closing Discussion (5 minutes):

- After all the performances, gather the children and talk about the lessons they learned. Ask:
 - "How can we make sure we don't judge others in real life?"
 - "Why is it important to see the good in others?"
 - "How can we help our friends if they're being judged unfairly?"
- End by reminding the children that they are special and unique, and made in God's image. We should always try to treat others the way we want to be treated – this is one of the Mini Vinnie promises.



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