



Evening Prayer: Entertaining Angels

Leader's guide

Activity aims:

- To explore the importance of being kind to those we know and those we don't know
- To teach children about the presence of angels in the people that we meet
- To create an angel decoration to share with another person and a prayer card from the story of 'The Best Umbrella'

What you will need:

- [Entertaining Angels worksheet](#) (1 per child)
- [The Best Umbrella worksheet](#) (1 per child)
- A picture of Queen Elizabeth II
- Pens/pencils/ paints/ decorations
- A4 plain paper to create paper fan for wings.
- String
- Hole punch
- Scissors

Procedure:

- This session can be delivered in the evening of the SVP Summer Sleep, either with a group or with an individual child
- Begin with the opening prayer. Read the prayer out loud together

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Now the day is coming to a close, we thank you for keeping us safe. You've helped us to learn more about those who are most in need in your world, and how we can take small actions to make a difference to their lives. We come closer to you now as we learn about being kind to everyone we meet as we don't know when we are in the presence of angels here on Earth.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

1.



- Introduce the topic first by asking the children if they can name any members of the Royal Family.

*What would you do if you met a member of the Royal family?
Would you behave differently around them? How?*

- Show the children a picture of Queen Elizabeth (King Charles' mother) and tell them that the story you are going to share with them is about her. Read the story and ask a few follow-up questions

The Best Umbrella

(From Messages of God's Love:2002, bibletruthpublishers.com)

The story is told of Queen Elizabeth who, tiring of the hustle and bustle of Buckingham Palace, asked her chauffeur one day to drive her out to the country. She would take a walk and he would come pick her up later. The Queen dressed like an ordinary person so no one would know who she was.

As she walked alone and enjoyed the peace and quietness of the countryside, the wind picked up and it started to rain. Knocking on a humble cottage door, the Queen asked if she could borrow an umbrella.

The woman who answered the door had two umbrellas, an old one and a very nice new one. She gave the stranger her old umbrella. After all, who knew if the woman would ever return it?

The next day the woman who owned the cottage was surprised to see a limousine drive up and stop outside her home. She peered out between the curtains, greatly puzzled as to why the chauffeur would be coming up the walk to her front door. When the man handed her the old umbrella he said, "The Queen wishes me to return your umbrella." The woman cried out in dismay, "Oh, if only I had known who she was, I would have given her my best!"

- Unpack the story a little with the children.
- Connect this story with the following Bible verse:

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it" Hebrews 13:2

2.



Even before the lady knew this stranger was the Queen, she had a great opportunity to show hospitality and kindness and the very best way to help someone, but this wasn't the case. She could have also given more time to this lady and the best umbrella she had. Her regret for giving an old umbrella only came when she discovered who she was. Why was that do you think? We are reminded in the Bible to show hospitality to everyone as we don't know when we are in the presence of angels. A good example of this is in the Old Testament when three messengers from God visited Abraham on their way to the city of Sodom. They didn't appear to Abraham as angels, but as strangers. He offered them food and a place to rest (Genesis 18)

If it were Jesus standing in front of us, we would want to give in the best. As Mini Vinnies, we see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet, so we need to serve everyone the best we can, with love, kindness and how we would want to be treated. It's important to give God that time too.

Adult members of the SVP often talk about feeding the homeless and taking the tablecloth. This is because the way we act as Vincentians is to give the very best we can to everyone we meet.

Activities

- Get the children to decorate their angel template and share the scripture reading with them once again as a reminder of what we should be doing to serve others
- The wings for the angel can be made very easily by folding a sheet of A4 into a fan ([Click here](#) for guidance on this). Make a small cut in the card to feed the wings through before joining them together
- Finish by creating a hole with the hole punch and threading through some string so the children can hang up their angels
- The second part of the activity is to decorate their umbrella templates and use these to write a prayer for all those people who are experiencing homelessness at this time. These prayers could be given to a local shelter to display them for their guests, a St Vincent's centre or at school. [Click here](#) for a slide to help the children write their prayer

Closing Prayer: Angel of God, my guardian dear, to Whom His love commits me here, ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.

3.