



## Resources:

- Signs and symbols cards cut up and mixed into an envelope (a set for each group)
- Signs and symbols answer sheet for the leader
- Saints Cards (a set for each group)
- Pens
- Coloured pens
- Coloured pencils

## Intro Activity:

- Split the group into smaller groups and give each group an envelope with the mixed up signs and symbols in it.
- Explain that in the envelope there will be a range of symbols and signs. Some will be very familiar, some less so.
- The groups have 5 - 6 minutes to complete **2** tasks.
- **Name** what the symbols represent and write it on the card
- Organise the cards into **groups** with other symbols that they belong with.
  
- Once 5 or 6 minutes has passed or the game is coming to a natural end give them a countdown and bring the group back together.
- Invite some of the groups to share their ideas around what symbols they put together. Did any symbols throw them off? Use the answer sheet to help give answers to any needed.
- At the end of the task most groups will probably have 6 different groups Food Outlets or brands, Car Manufacturers, Superhero's, Road Signs, Charity logos and a 'Church' group.
- The third task is to take the Church group of cards and divide it up around the other groups. If we weren't allowed a 'Church' group where else could you put those symbols? There are no wrong answers but they will be asked to explain at the end - be as creative as you can be.
- Below are some examples are below that you could use to round up if the group need it unpacking more.
  - Bread and Wine in food - communion nourishes our soul like food nourishes our body.
  - The Cross in Car Manufacturers - it is the vehicle Jesus used to give us everlasting life.
  - The Church in Charity symbols - the mission of the church is to be active in supporting people.
  - The Bible in Road Symbols - it is our road map for life.
  - The PX symbol for Jesus in superhero's - he is the one who saves us.
- **Before moving on:** Faith doesn't work if we group it with other faith things and keep it separate from the rest of our life. Faith is a symbol that is lived out through each of us and has the ability to transform our lives if we choose to invite it into every aspect of our experience.

## Points to raise

- There are a huge amount of signs and symbols in our world that we see, can interpret and can understand in a moments glance.
- Each of us are a living sign. The way we act, our responses to people, what we choose to do in our spare time, the words we use; they all make up our sign to the world around us.

## Main Activity:

- The Saints of the Church are a brilliant example to us of people who have become living signs of Gods love in the world.
- Often when we see them pictured they are holding something or dressed in something to tell us their story.
- In the Saints envelope if you get them out you can see a small selection of saints holding things or being draped in items that help to tell their story.
- Elaborate on one or two of the stories from Saints you think are significant. Or invite the young people to read about them for a couple of moments.



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- Often when we see them pictured they are holding something or dressed in something to tell us their story.
- In the Saints envelope if you get them out you can see a variety of saints holding things or being draped in items that help to tell their story.
- Elaborate on one or two of the stories from Saints you think are significant.  
(Therese, Carlo Acutis, Maximillian Kolbe and Josephine Bakhita)
  
- Hand out the 'I am' sheets and make sure the group have access to pens and pencils.
- Explain that you are going to ask some questions and the invitation is for them to write down or draw their answers on their sheet.
- Begin by inviting them to write their name somewhere. It could be their real name or it could be a nickname. Between each question leave a few moments for the group to reflect and respond.
- There are further questions below for you to pick and choose from or add your own.
- Giving examples of your own may help to spark ideas for the group.
  - Where do you find belonging? You might want to include a flag that symbolise your heritage, a symbol of your home or where you were born. Perhaps you are part of a club or organisation or maybe you follow a team in sport and you might want to include a logo to represent that.
  - What are your skills and gifts? What do people say about you? What are you good at? What do you enjoy doing? Are you a speaker or a listener? Are you the funny one? The trustworthy one? Are you the one who notices the little things or are you a big picture person?
  - The founder of the SVP was a 19 year old young man called Frédéric Ozanam he was challenged and wanted his life to become a living sign of what he stood for and believed in. He said It is our vocation to set people's hearts ablaze, to do what the Son of God did, who came to light a fire on earth in order to set it ablaze with His love. -Frédéric Ozanam-. Vocation is what God has called you especially to be and do. What do you feel called to at the moment? What is sitting on your heart? What do you feel calls you to want to act?
  - What do you stand for? What item or symbol would you be holding to represent you?
  - What do you believe in and what does God look like for you?
  - How do you or how could you become a clearer, visible sign of your faith and values?
  
- If there is time you could invite members of the group to share what they have written or drawn.
  
- At the end finish with this short prayer:

*Loving God, give us strength.*

*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 you in the world.*

*Help us to be more caring in our families, at work and at leisure,  
for love alone gives eternal worth to what we do.*

*Amen.*