



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action



The Unexpected Helper

Aim of session:

- To help children understand that true compassion means going the extra mile for others, and that anyone—no matter their background—can be a helper. The session encourages children to challenge unfair judgments and to follow the example of Jesus, St Vincent, and Blessed Frédéric by responding with love and action to those in need.

Time: 15–20 minutes

Theme: Challenging prejudice, going the extra mile, standing up for those in need.

Scripture: Luke 10:29–37 – The Good Samaritan

What you will need:

- Bibles or printed copy of Luke 10:29–37
- Whiteboard or flipchart for introducing the activity and prompts
- Pens, pencils, crayons or colouring pencils
- Storyboard templates with sentence prompts.
- Example scenario ideas to support children who need inspiration.

Steps for session:

Read or retell Luke 10:29–37, with emphasis on:

- The man in need left on the road
- The expected people who walk by
- The Samaritan, the outsider, who goes the extra mile

Ask:

- Why do you think Jesus chose a Samaritan?
- What surprises us about this story?
- Have you ever been surprised by who helped you—or who didn't?

Leader's reflection point:

Jesus tells this story to challenge what people thought about "good" and "bad." The Samaritan was someone people didn't expect to help—but he did, and more than expected. He paid for the injured man's care. Sometimes SVP beneficiaries—people who once needed help—become the ones helping. That's Gospel love in action.





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The Unexpected Helper... continued

Main Activity – “Who Would Help?” Role Reflection (10–12 minutes)

Children imagine and draw or write about a modern version of the story—but with unexpected helpers in today's world.

Drawing / Storyboard

Give children a simple storyboard (3 or 4 boxes) or blank paper. They draw:

- Someone in need today (e.g. a child being bullied, someone homeless, a person left out)
- The people who walk by (e.g. a teacher, a neighbour, a classmate)
- The unexpected helper (e.g. someone with less, someone new, someone misunderstood)
- How the helper goes the extra mile

Reflection Sentence Completion

Use these prompts and write below the storyboard:

- “The person people expected to help was...”
- “But the person who really helped was...”
- “They went the extra mile by...”
- “I can be an unexpected helper when I...”

Closing Prayer / Reflection Thought (2–3 minutes)

“Jesus, you showed us that love doesn't always come from where we expect it. Help us to notice those in need, to stand up for what is right, and to be ready to go the extra mile. Just like Blessed Frederic and St Vincent, may we help without judging, love without limits, and serve with joy. Amen.”



The Good Samaritan – Storyboard Template

Draw a modern version of the Good Samaritan story. Under each box, write your reflection.

1. The person in need is...

2. The people who walk by are...

3. The unexpected helper is...

4. They go the extra mile by...

In my story, the person people expected to help was...

But the person who really helped was...

They went the extra mile by...

I can be an unexpected helper when I...

