

Saint Vincent de Paul

Seeing a person, responding with care

Ages about 7-11 | Video 3:25 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Love for Jesus grows into organized, respectful care for people in need.

Learning goals Recall Vincent's change of priorities; identify people his communities served; plan one practical response with adult guidance.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask how noticing a need differs from actually helping. Discuss why a person who needs assistance also deserves friendship and respect.

Watch and notice

Notice Vincent's early wish for status, his changed priorities, and care for hungry people, sick people, children, and prisoners.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Vincent's priorities change?

The retelling moves from wanting comfort and respect to serving people in need. His priesthood became a life of charity.

2. Whom did his work serve?

People who were hungry, sick, abandoned, or imprisoned. Accept a specific service detail from the video.

3. Did he do all the work alone?

No. Priests, sisters, and other helpers served together. Louise de Marillac helped found the Daughters of Charity.

4. What makes help respectful?

Listen, ask what is needed, protect privacy, and follow adult guidance. Treat the person as a neighbor rather than a project.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw peaceful service and a cooperative action; emphasize listening and dignity.

Read & Write Recall changed priorities, explain cooperation, and plan a respectful response.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use pictures of notice, ask, and help; dictate a welcoming action.

Ages 9-11: distinguish a person's real need from our assumptions and assign cooperative roles.

Notice, ask, organize | Optional 4 minutes

Make a three-column care plan: a need, a respectful question, and a safe action. Choose a simple class need, such as making a new child welcome. Assign willing helpers and check afterward whether the action helped.

Look for understanding Look for a specific need and respectful response. Children should not contact strangers, visit prisoners, or collect money without adult supervision.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us recognize our neighbors' dignity. Teach us to listen, organize, and serve with love. Saint Vincent and Saint Louise, pray for us. Amen.

At home Ask an adult about a trusted local charity. Learn one way its helpers listen and respond to people they serve.

Handout answer notes Priorities: serving people in need. Collaboration: priests, sisters, Louise, and other helpers. Plans should listen, respect dignity, and use adult guidance.

Teach with care

Preview the pirate capture and enslavement passage. Explain that these were wrong; focus the lesson on Vincent's later service rather than captivity details. The retelling compresses Vincent's development and presents captivity as a turning point; that episode is not the basis of this lesson. Dialogue is dramatized. Vincent's work grew through many collaborators; Louise de Marillac co-founded the Daughters of Charity in 1633. Poverty does not reduce anyone's dignity or imply a lack of faith.

Words to explain Charity: love expressed in caring actions. Dignity: the worth every person has as God's beloved creation. Community: people working and living together.

Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Community history: [Daughters of Charity: our founders](#)

Help with respect

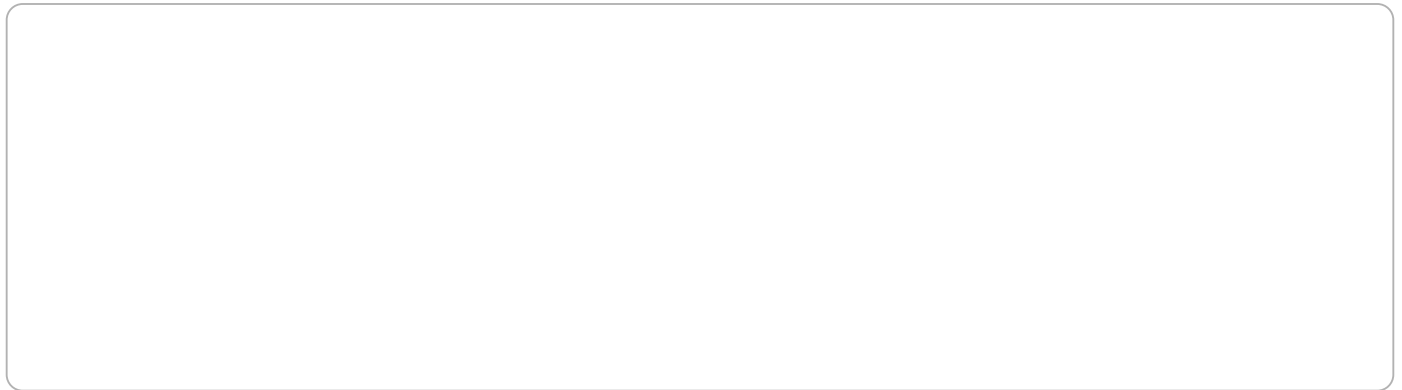
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Vincent learned to serve Jesus through care for people in need.

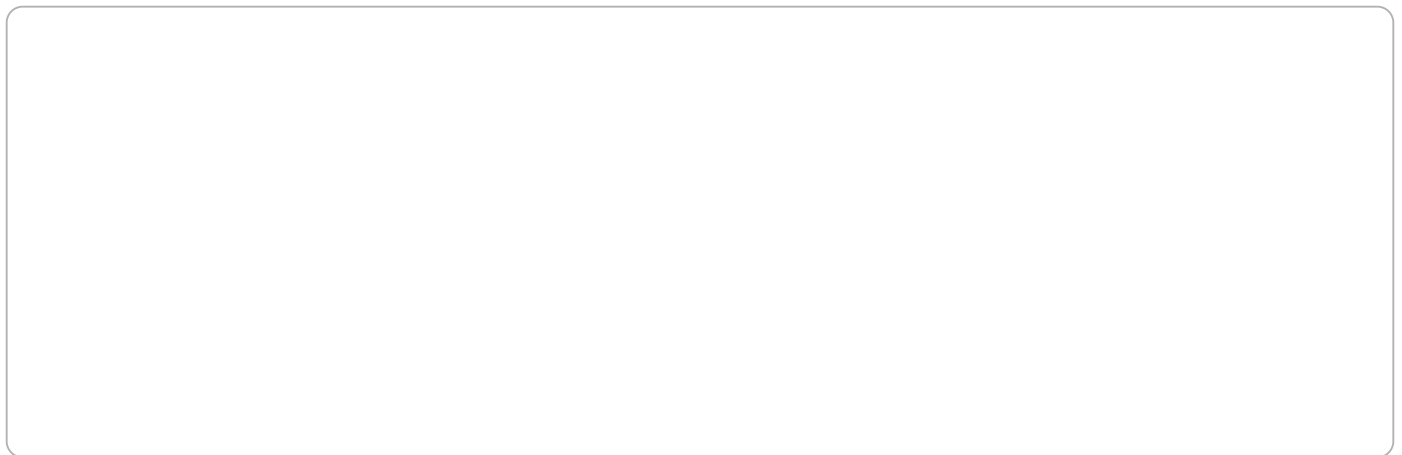
Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw a peaceful act of care from Vincent's ministry.



2 Draw helpers working together on a safe act of kindness.



Tell What does the person need? How can helpers listen first?

Pray Jesus, help me notice, listen, and care with respect. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

From noticing to helping

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Think about Vincent's priorities and the people he served.

Name _____

1 Recall a change

What became more important to Vincent than comfort or status?

He began to care more about ...

2 Name collaborators

Why can working together make service more effective?

Helpers can work together by ...

3 Plan respectful care

Name a need, a respectful question, and a safe response.

We could ask and then ...

Pray Jesus, help me notice, listen, and care with respect. Amen.

Go deeper Why does listening matter before we decide how to help?