



# Fresh Ideas! Sheet 2

“The poor have much to teach you. You have much to learn from them.”  
*St Vincent de Paul*

## RAISING AWARENESS: IT’S HARD TO FIX A PROBLEM YOU DON’T KNOW EXISTS!

### Meeting Games and Activities

#### BREAK THE CODE

Here is a prayer written in code. Rewrite the prayer changing each number to the letter it is in code bar.

1=A	2=B	3=C	4=D	5=E	6=F	7=G	8=H	9=I	10=J	11=K	12=L	13=M
14=N	15=O	16=P	17=Q	18=R	19=S	20=T	21=U	22=V	23=W	24=X	25=Y	26=Z

4, 5, 1, 18 7, 15, 4

25, 15, 21 12, 15, 22, 5 13, 5 1, 14, 4 20, 18, 21, 19, 20 13, 5

9 16, 18, 15, 13, 9, 19, 5 20, 8, 1, 20 9 23, 9, 12, 12

21, 19, 5

13, 25 7, 9, 6, 20, 19 1, 14, 4 20, 1, 12, 5, 14, 20, 19

20, 15 4, 15 7, 15, 15, 4 1, 15, 4 20, 5, 12, 16

15, 20, 8, 5, 18 16, 5, 15, 16, 12, 5

1, 13, 5, 14

#### SING A LONG

Join in and learn the Mini Vinnies’ song- see the UK version here:

<http://www.minivinnies.org.uk/activities/singalong/mini-vinnie-song.html>





Sharing our time with people in need  
Sick to care for or hungry to feed  
Seeing the face of Jesus in all  
Now we must follow as we hear his call.

*Chorus*

Mini Vinnies (clap x3) Mini Vinnies (clap x 3) we're here to care  
You know (clap x3) that we (clap x3) will always be there  
Building a better world for us all  
Making a difference big and small.

Sharing ourselves with Christ in our minds  
Spreading his message by just being kind.  
Doing our best each and every day.  
Jesus is always guiding our way.

*Chorus*

Mini Vinnies (clap x3) Mini Vinnies (clap x 3) we're here to care  
You know (clap x3) that we (clap x3) will always be there  
Building a better world for us all  
Making a difference big and small.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL QUIZ

(You can find the answers within our website: <https://www.vinnies.org.au/>)

- 1 What does Vinnies actually stand for?
- 2 What is the mission and vision of Vinnies?
- 3 When and where was the Society formed?
- 4 Who are the 5 special people that helped form, mold and shape the Society?
- 5 What are the Society Special Works that help poor people within this diocese?

Now that you have tried the quiz why not find out more about the Special Works and how you can help!

## FACE-TO-FACE

Place students in pairs and have them observe and interview each other.  
Have students list their differences as well as similarities. See if these attributes are external or internal, and discuss this with the class.





Students should leave the activity realising that it's important to respect and celebrate human differences.

### **THAT'S NOT FAIR!**

This activity demonstrates the impact of educational disparities. Give one half of the classroom nice coloured paper and well-working scissors and the other half used paper and pairs of old scissors.

Ask students to create paper dolls. Then, switch the resources and display the artwork.

Students will see how low-quality resources and high-quality resources can affect student achievement.

### **LEMON PEEL**

Give a lemon to each student and ask them to "get to know" their lemons. Have them look for any identifying marks, shape, brightness of the lemon, etc. Then, take the lemons, put them in a basket and have the students find their lemon. Students should not have trouble with this. The next day, peel the lemons and have the students attempt to find their lemons again in the basket.

This will teach them that although we look different on the outside, we are the same on the inside.

### **Activities to involve the local community**

- Host an international food fair or market to raise awareness of different cultures and invite the local community.
- Host a diversity fashion show to raise awareness of different cultural traditional dress and invite the local community.
- Create posters for local businesses to display encouraging people to embrace those from all walks of life.
- Write a letter to local government regarding an important community issue and send it home and to others for them to adapt and send on.
- Celebrate international days/weeks of significance such as International Human Rights Day, International Women's Day and Anti-Poverty Week as a community and run community events.
- Ask the community to donate second hand books for all ages and host a book fair in the main street.
- Sponsor and play a game of some kind of sport to come together and help to raise money/awareness for the disadvantaged in your local area.

### **Practical Activities for Mini Vinnies**

- Host your own Mini Vinnies festival. Invite the schools closest to you to come together for the day and invite children from each school to present about what being a Mini Vinnies member means to them personally and talk about what they have been doing in their groups so far. Have time for socialising and play at the end.
- Set up a stall during parent/teacher evenings selling drinks and homemade treats.
- Have the group make cupcakes to distribute after Mass. Encourage others to pass on this random act of kindness within the week.
- Create a sensory garden within the school. This will be a garden where people can explore their environment, integrate with friends, observe and interact with the world around them irrespective of ability, mobility or special needs.
- Design and make items such as clips and book marks that can be sold at markets and stalls to fundraise for your local adult Conference.





- Plan a lunch time of singing appropriately themed songs for the season, ie. Carols at Christmas.
- Plan a drive to donate second hand back packs that can be given to our homeless client friends.
- Create a visual awareness board that shows what the Mini Vinnies group has been up to throughout the year. Reflect on this board at the end of the year on all you have achieved.
- Start the 5c Friday initiative where students are encouraged to bring in 5c to donate every Friday. By the end of the term you would have raised quite a significant amount.

### Practical Activities for High School Students

- Write a list of all the stereotypes (positive and negative) you can think of for a social group.
- Complete a list of your own experiences of things that are unfair and brain storm ways you could have done things differently in those situations.
- Within the group share your own stories of current social justice issues you can see and the things you can do make a difference in these situations.
- Sign up for mailing lists from social justice publications to get new learning material.
- Introduce the idea of “social justice” to someone who’s never heard the term.
- Talk to social justice educators about their stories and reasons for doing the work.
- Use your privilege in one area to lift the status of another underprivileged group by raising awareness of this group with as many people as you can.
- Start a social justice blog.
- Organise a social justice rally for the rest of the school to learn about social justice.
- Take part in organising a student mental health day- a day devoted to checking in on mental health and ask people if they are ok!

\*\*\* Please note all of the above can be modified or adapted to suit each school community or age group...and you’d do variations of these and many more which we’re always eager to hear about.

