



Aim: To help your child to discover that he/she can help people to be Good People.

Note to the Parent: This will be a family reflection on the prayer of St Francis of Assisi.



Parent: Welcome the child and other members of the family and gather them in a circle in the room.

- Invite the child and the family members to talk about: What can children do to bring goodness to the world?

Parent: Who can tell us something about St Francis of Assisi?

Allow time for the family members to contribute what they know about St Francis of Assisi.

Parent: Now first let us find out a little about the life of St Francis of Assisi: (**P = Parent, M = Other Member of the family**)

- P.** St Francis of Assisi was born round about the year 1181 in Italy.
- M.** As a young man, Francis did not care much for God, and he lived a wayward life.
- P.** He was wounded in a battle and spent a year as a prisoner, waiting for his father to bail him out.
- M.** While he was in prison, Francis had time to think about himself and his way of life.
- P.** God used this time to help Francis to realise that his life was being wasted and that he should do something for God.
- M.** Francis took God seriously and began to change his life.
- P.** He began to see people not as enemies and bad people but as good people.
- M.** One day, early in the morning, Francis was walking through a village.
- P.** The villagers were very poor and their landlord did not pay them well and only wanted them to work hard for him.
- M.** As Francis walked through the village, he called out to the people "Good Morning, Good people."
- P.** The poor people of the village did not know what to say.
- M.** Nobody had ever called them GOOD People.
- P.** What do you think of this story?

St. Francis of Assisi



Allow some time for the child and the other members of the family to comment.

Celebration:

Parent: We can do something to help people to be good. And we can begin right here at home and in our neighbourhood or school. St Francis gives us a "doing" prayer.

- Let us say it line by line. All the members of the family can take turns in sharing the lines. After each line of the prayer, all repeat the line.



Parent: Who is Good?

ALL: WE ARE GOOD PEOPLE!

It may be possible to sing the prayer of St Francis.

If possible some cool juice all round! (We are GOOD PEOPLE!!)

For a useful Illustrated version of the Prayer of St

Francis for children see: <http://postcardexchange.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/prayerforpeace.jpg>

Lord, make me an instrument of
 your peace:
 where there is hatred, let me sow
 love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may
 not so much seek
 to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to
 understand,
 to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are
 pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are
 born to eternal life.
 Amen.