

Mission Together

St Nicholas – A Gift for the World Activity



Introduction

This activity accompanies the Saint Nicholas resource, which tells the story of St Nicholas and encourages children to follow his example by putting Christ at the centre of their lives.

It is recommended that you share the story with your class first before completing this activity.

An additional Stocking Activity is also available.

Objective

To follow Saint Nicholas' example of selfless giving by making a promise to help others



Activity

St Nicholas **shared** what he had to change the lives of those in need. He followed Jesus' teaching to love one another by using his money and his time to make people's lives happier.

Ask the children to think of what they might share to transform someone else's life. They may have a musical talent or an ability to tell jokes. Maybe the children can make a **gift** of their talents by using them to cheer up someone who is sad, or even organising a charity show for Mission Together? Someone who is able to bake may offer to have an Advent cake sale. Remind the children that little **acts of kindness** are special gifts too, such as visiting an elderly neighbour or relative, or sharing with a sibling.

St Nicholas put **Jesus at the centre of his life** and always remembered to pray. Today we are going to be like St Nicholas and offer our own Gifts for the World by making **Prayer Promises**. A Prayer Promise is a short prayer for someone in need, followed by a promise of how we can help. This could be a prayer asking God to look after children living in poverty overseas without a home, food, or family this Christmas, and a promise to help them as best as you can by raising money for Mission Together, a charity that encourages children to help children.



Provide each child with a **gift box** template (overleaf), preferably on thin card. Invite the children to cut out their box shape and write their Prayer Promise on the blank side. Once they have finished writing, the children can decorate their gift boxes, then fold them in half so that their Prayer Promise is inside. You could make an offering of them at your school or parish crib. In this way the children have turned their Prayer Promises into **special gifts** and a commitment to share God's love with others.

Mission Together is part of the worldwide Missio network

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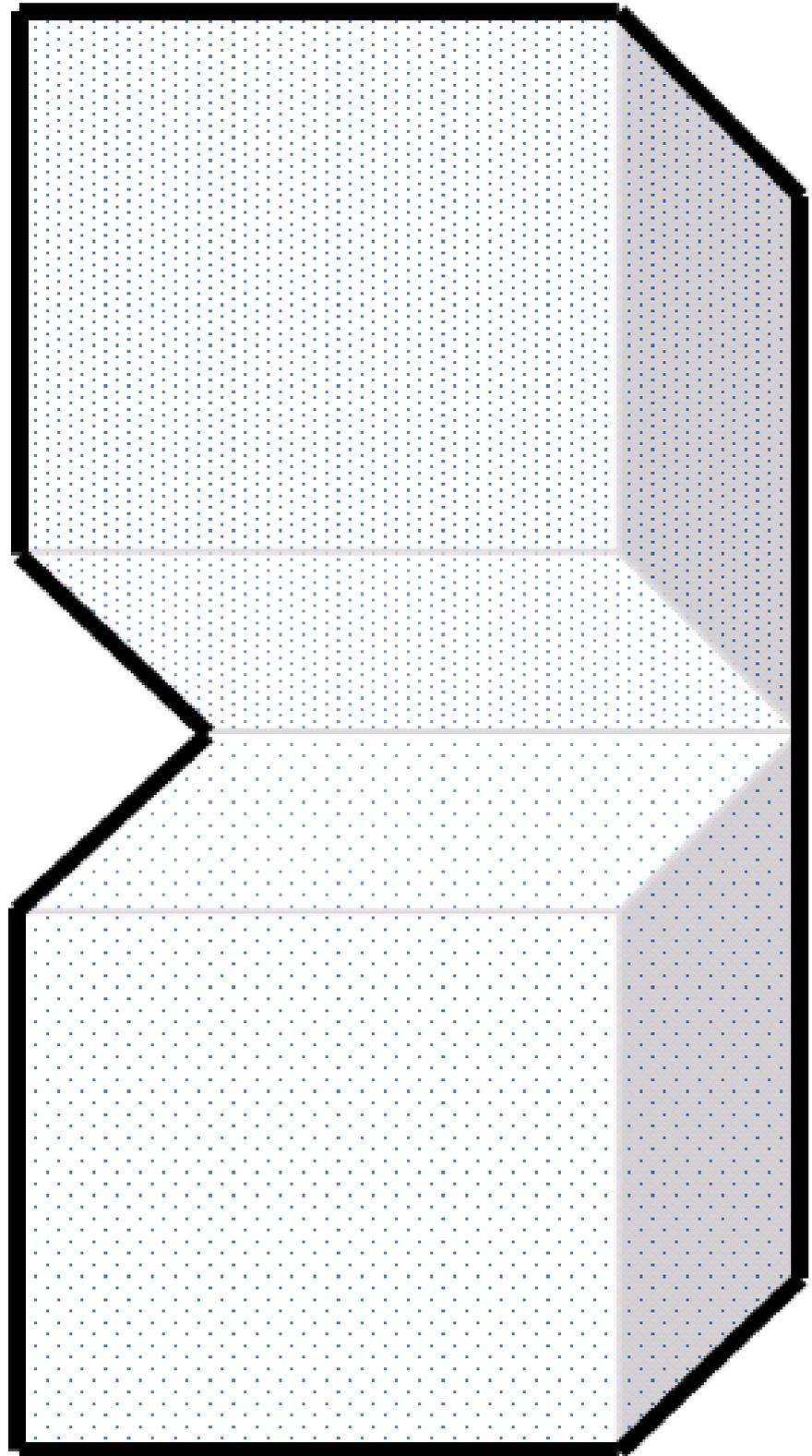
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Instructions:

1. Carefully cut around the thick black lines only. This will leave you with a strange shape
2. On the blank side, write a Prayer Promise: something you can do to make the life of someone else better
3. When you have written your Prayer Promise, decorate the patterned side of your shape
4. When you have finished, fold your box along the dotted line, so your prayer is hidden inside a gift box



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