# Tickets for the Greatest Show

*When John Bosco put on a show for the children of his village, the price of a ticket was a prayer.*
*Color a ticket, write your name on it, and cut it out along the dashed line.*

DON BOSCO PRESENTS
**The Greatest Show**

*Price:*
*one prayer*
Name _____
ADMIT ONE

DON BOSCO PRESENTS
**The Greatest Show**

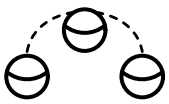
*Price:*
*one prayer*
Name _____
ADMIT ONE

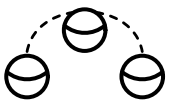
DON BOSCO PRESENTS
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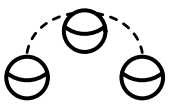
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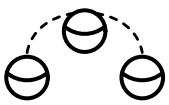
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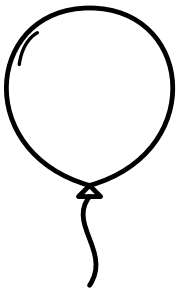
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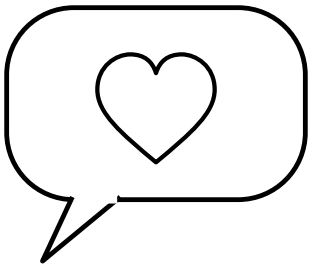
From John Bosco and the Greatest Show by Joseph Glazier. Free to copy for your class or family.

# Kindness, Not Fists

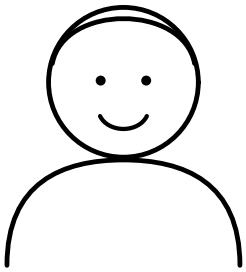
*In his dream, John Bosco learned that we win others not with fists, but with kindness and love. When you feel cross, here is what you can do:*



**1. Stop and take a deep breath.**



**2. Answer with love and kindness.**



**3. If it keeps happening, tell a grown-up.**

## Be a Little Saint This Week

Tick each one when you have done it.

- ☐ Learn the name of a new child at school or church, and ask them to play with you.
- ☐ Whenever someone makes you cross, don't hit, push, or shout back. Take a deep breath and answer with love and kindness, just as John learned in his dream. And if someone keeps being unkind, tell a grown-up.
- ☐ Learn a joke or a little trick, and use it to make someone smile.

### A Little Prayer

*Dear God, thank you for games and laughter and friends. Fill my heart with joy, and when I feel angry, help me to win others, not with fists, but with kindness and love, the way Saint John Bosco did. Amen.*

**My name:** _____

*This page is for home. It doesn't need to come back to class.*


From John Bosco and the Greatest Show by Joseph Glazier. Free to copy for your class or family.

# Don Bosco's Greatest Show: leader's guide

*A class show for children aged 4 to 9, for Saint John Bosco's feast day (January 31), which always falls during Catholic Schools Week in the United States, or any time of year. Like John's shows, it begins and ends with a prayer.*

## You'll need

For each child: a ticket (each page has eight) and the Kindness, Not Fists page. Crayons and scissors. For tricks: soft balls, beanbags or rolled-up socks only.

## Tell his story

John Bosco was born in 1815 on a small farm in the hills near Turin, in northern Italy. His father died when he was two. When he was nine, he dreamed of a crowd of fighting boys; he rushed at them with his fists, but was told to win them with kindness and love. He learned to juggle and do tricks from traveling acrobats, and put on shows for the village children, with prayer before the show and again at the end. As a priest in Turin he made a home, the Oratory, for boys who had no one to care for them, and won their hearts by playing with them and being gentle. Today he is a patron saint of schoolchildren, and of magicians too.

## A plan for one session (40 minutes)

- **Story (10 minutes).** Read the book or tell his story. Ask: what was the price of a ticket to John's show?
- **Get ready (10 minutes).** Make groups of three or four. Each group chooses one act: a joke, a song, a rhyme, a simple trick, or passing a ball around the circle faster and faster. The children color their tickets while they plan.
- **The price of a ticket (2 minutes).** Each child shows their ticket at the door, and the whole class pays together with a prayer: a Hail Mary or the Our Father, as John's audience did. The tickets go home as keepsakes.
- **The show (15 minutes).** One act at a time, with plenty of clapping for every group.
- **Pray again (3 minutes).** End as John did, with the book's prayer: *Dear God, thank you for games and laughter and friends. Fill my heart with joy, and when I feel angry, help me to win others, not with fists, but with kindness and love, the way Saint John Bosco did. Amen.*

## Every child has a part

- Every act is a group act, so no child performs alone unless they want to. A shy child can pass the balls, lead the clapping, or be the announcer who says the group's name.
- Give every group the same time and the same applause. Don Bosco made room for every boy, and the show is for everyone.
- Keep tricks safe: soft things only, both feet on the floor, no climbing or balancing on furniture.

## For a bigger group

For a Catholic Schools Week assembly or a parish program, let each class prepare one act, and ask one child from each class to lead a line of the opening prayer. Keep the whole show under 30 minutes for the youngest.

## Kindness, not fists

Before the children go home, read the Kindness, Not Fists page together and practice the three steps: stop and take a deep breath, answer with kindness, and if someone keeps being unkind, tell a grown-up. The page stays at home; nothing needs to come back. If a child tells you someone is hurting them, follow your school's or parish's safeguarding procedures.

More ideas for his feast day, and the book *John Bosco and the Greatest Show*, are at littlesaintsbighearts.com/saint-john-bosco-feast-day


Free to copy for your class, program or family. Please don't sell it.