

<p><b>Christianity: Prayer</b>-What do Christians believe about prayer? What questions do I have about prayer? Year 3 or Year 3/4 on a two year rolling programme</p>	
<p><b>Key Areas of Enquiry</b> B- Practices and ways of life E-Meaning, purpose and truth</p>	
<p><b>Background Story/ Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This unit should introduce children to prayer and help them understand what prayer means to Christians and be able to reflect on their own experiences.</li> <li>• Christians believe that prayer facilitates a relationship with God.</li> <li>• Prayer can take many forms: individuals talking and listening to God. Christians may use a focus for prayer e.g. a candle, rosary, natural objects, an icon, a piece of music, a special place.</li> <li>• Christians pray to God for help, guidance, praise, thanks, repentance, to express emotion. They pray for themselves and on behalf of others.</li> <li>• In the Bible we can find examples of prayer e.g. in the Psalms, The Lord's Prayer.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cross Curricular Links</b> Music, Art, Literacy, ICT and Dance</p>	<p><b>Key Vocabulary</b> Prayer, Community, Reflection, Feelings, Emotions, Relationships Psalms, Bible</p>
<p><b>Skills</b> Investigation Interpretation Synthesis Application Communication</p>	<p><b>Attitudes</b> Self-awareness Respect Open-mindedness Appreciation and Wonder</p>

## Key Questions

Why do Christians Pray? What is prayer? Where do people pray? How do Christians pray? What do Christians pray for? How can you express your feelings? Where or to whom do you go to express your feelings? How do you feel afterwards?

**Assessment opportunities are indicated by a ☺ throughout the document**

Learning Objectives	Possible Teaching/Learning Activities	Learning Outcomes	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils should learn to explore and express their own feelings and listen to and respect the feelings of others.</li><li>• Begin to understand that through prayer Christians can express their feelings to God.</li></ul> <p>Pupils can raise questions about the practise of prayer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Introduction to stimulate feelings and responses to feelings.</u> Using a selection of positive and negative images expressed through art, music, artefacts and multi-media presentations, newspapers, ask children to explore images and think about how they feel in response. Choose words and mount on coloured background appropriate to the feeling expressed. Discuss. Christians use prayer to express their emotions and feelings to God. How can you express your feelings? Where or to whom do you go to express your feelings? How do you feel afterwards? Perhaps the teacher could share their own experiences.</li></ul> <p>Look at some pictures of people praying together, praying alone, and ask the children what they notice about these. (e g - expressions, use of artefacts, body posture, place, praying alone, praying with others etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Thought shower why Christians pray in</u></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I can explore and communicate my feelings and think about where or to whom I could go, and begin to make links between this and Christian prayer.</li></ul> <p>Pupils can identify how / why Christians pray</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pictures of beautiful scenery, nature, people, natural disasters, poverty etc.</li><li>• A piece of calm music</li><li>• Possible news footage e.g. hurricanes</li><li>• Newspapers</li></ul>

<p>Learn about an appropriate attitude for Christian prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils should learn that Christians express beliefs and feelings in different ways.</li> </ul>	<p><u>group's e.g.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to feel close to God and to express what we are feeling to him.</li> <li>to thank God for his goodness</li> <li>to say sorry to God for the wrong things we have done and said</li> <li>to ask for help for themselves/others</li> <li>listening and thinking ( reflecting) about our response to situations</li> <li>sharing concerns in a community</li> <li>because God wants to be close to us</li> <li>because Jesus prayed and taught his disciples to pray.</li> <li>Can the children tell from the pictures what sort of prayers these Christians are offering.</li> <li>Read the parable in the Lion Bible for Children page 253 about the two men who went to the Temple to pray. What sort of prayer is this story about?</li> <li><u>Looking at different kinds and ways of prayer</u> Either, give a selection of verses from Psalms showing different feelings of the psalmist , pupils could use a highlighter pen to highlight these and write in the margin ( see page 147f in the Lion Bible for Children) Or Compare a range of different prayers noting how the author of the prayer has</li> </ul>	<p>I can make a link between the Christian belief in forgiveness and prayer</p> <p>I can investigate a range of prayers and identify how beliefs and feelings are expressed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lion Bible for Children by Murray Watts (07459 4046 3)</li> <li>Prayer book such as "Lion Treasury of Children's Prayers"</li> </ul>
---	---	--	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils should begin to understand why Christians pray to God because they believe in a relationship with God as a Father</li> </ul>	<p>expressed feelings and concerns. The language of some prayers is often not contemporary language. Ask the children to rewrite a prayer as an email or text.</p> <p><u>God as Father</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils could bring in photos of people who care for them. Discuss how, in pairs.</li> <li>Teacher could bring in photographs of own parents/ children, share ways in which they were good parents, talk about relationship with them. Talk about the love of parents/ carers for all their children being equal. This could be used to link in with the idea of God as Father and His relationship with His 'children'.</li> <li>Display pupil's drawings /photographs; add key words to describe qualities of a good parent/ carer.</li> </ul> <p><u>Introducing the Lords Prayer</u></p> <p>Remind children of previous lesson where they explored relationships between parents and children. Jesus taught his disciples a prayer which Christians all over the world use today- the Lord's Prayer? How does it start? Look at the prayer in context of the disciples request "Teach us to pray" Use a modern version to explore the meaning of the prayer- e.g. Lois Rock - The Lord's Prayer or use the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can understand why Christians pray to God their Father</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils and teacher photos of special people- parents, friends, children etc.</li> <li>A copy of the Lord's Prayer.</li> </ul> <p>The Lord's Prayer -Lois Rock</p>
--	--	--	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils should be able to identify some prayers which are important to Christians, and explore the meaning of religious vocabulary.</li> </ul> <p>Pupils should begin to identify the impact of prayer for the Christian Community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils should learn that Christians express beliefs and feelings in different ways.</li> </ul>	<p>Lion Children's Bible page 252</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children could 'rewrite' parts of Lords Prayer, keeping the original meaning but using more modern words/ phrases/ expressions, or representing pictorially (using magazines, newspapers etc) to get behind the true meaning.</li> <li>Make class poster/collage /frieze to illustrate the parts of the prayer.</li> </ul> <p><b>How does the local church pray?</b></p> <p>Invite a local Christian to visit to talk about ways in which the Christians in the church pray e.g. prayer requests, prayer lists, prayer partners , prayer breakfasts, who they pray for in the local /wider community, what sort of prayer takes place on a Sunday in the church etc. Ask about what helps Christians focus on their prayer e.g. candles, artefacts, stillness, music. Children could design and set up a reflective area on a particular topic of concern to them. They need to think about how their "Special area "could help people either pray or quietly think about the topic chosen. ( e.g. see Pause for Reflection Pack)</p> <p>Alternatively use ( with words or pictures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prayer trees</li> <li>Target Board starting at centre with</li> </ul>	<p>I can identify the Lord's Prayer as a prayer which is important for Christians, and explore the meaning and its vocabulary.</p> <p>I can investigate a range of prayers and identify how beliefs and feelings are expressed.</p> <p>I can understand how and why Christians pray for themselves, their community and the wider community.</p>	<p>Pause for Reflection pack written by Schools Advisers from Dioceses in the SW of England. Available from Gloucester Diocese</p>
---	--	--	--

<p>Pupils should make links between their own experience and responses and the experience of others, using and developing religious vocabulary.</p>	<p>prayers for ourselves, moving outwards with prayers for class, school, local community. nation, world. ( use pictures or words)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer boxes</li> <li>• Prayer books for children to write/ illustrate their own prayers or thoughts.</li> </ul> <p>Pupils could write what they think about prayer, how prayer works or not and what questions they have about prayer. Place all questions on a question wall, Ask pupils in pairs to select one question they would like to discuss- into fours to select again and so on until there is a question for debate.</p> <p>And /or pupils could write and illustrate a class prayer, expressing a the classes response to class, community and world concerns.</p> <p>Or, transfer a Psalm, class prayer or feelings into a dance. Individual or groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can write a prayer in response to my own feelings and the needs of others.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Assessment Opportunities ☺</b>  Identify some prayers that are important to Christians and the beliefs expressed in some prayers.  Raise questions about the practice of prayer.</p>			