

Year Group: 4	Worldview: Christianity		
Strand:	Reality & Truth		
Key Question:	Does prayer make a difference and how do Christians know?		
Focus of study:	Prayer, communion with God, miracles		
Background information for teachers:			
<p><u>What is prayer?</u> Prayer is how Christians can communicate with God, through both talking and listening and being open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is considered a two-way method of communication that gives comfort to Christians as they feel that God is listening and may send messages back.</p> <p><u>Where does the idea of prayer come from?</u> The early church was Jewish in origin and Jesus spoke often about the importance of prayer. Jewish practice was rooted in prayer, much of it based around Temple worship. Jesus demonstrated that prayer was more about a person's relationship with God. He called it talking to 'his Father' so that he knew what God wanted him to do. His way of praying caused the disciples to ask him to teach them how to pray. This led to him teaching them the prayer known today as the Lord's Prayer. Similarly, many Christians believe that prayer can bring them closer to God.</p> <p><u>Who do Christians pray to?</u> Many Christians direct their prayers to God the Father. Some Christians would also direct their prayers to God the Son (Jesus) and / or the Holy Spirit. There are examples in the Bible of people praying to each part of the Holy Trinity. Many Catholics and members of other Orthodox denominations will also pray to Mary and saints to ask them to act on their behalf, but Protestants would normally not.</p> <p><u>What form does it take?</u> Christians often use formal written prayers, which are often memorised to be recited both publicly and privately. An example of this is the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught his followers when they asked him how to pray. Christians also use informal prayers, which are personal and allow individuals to connect with God. Prayers can also come in the form of songs or hymns. Prayers can also be wordless – just sitting in God's presence.</p> <p>The acronym <b>ACTS and I</b> is used by some Christians to remember the keys components that are found in many formal prayers. Many Christians will also try to include these in their informal, personal prayers.  <b>Adoration</b> – praising God, e.g. "Dear God, I know that you are all-loving..."  <b>Confession</b> – saying sorry, e.g. "Please forgive me for the horrible things I have said about..."  <b>Thanksgiving</b> – thanking God. e.g. "Thank you for the amazing weather this week..."  <b>Supplication</b> – Asking for something, e.g. "Give me strength to..."  <b>Intercession</b> – praying for someone who may be ill or need help, e.g. "Please remember my cousin, who is ill, and help them to heal after their operation."</p> <p><i>The Lord's Prayer:</i> These are the words Jesus used when he taught his disciples to pray. This prayer contains all four of <b>ACTS</b> and is used in many different types of worship across numerous denominations. It has two origins in scripture from the New Testament: Matthew 6.9-13 and Luke 11.1-4. Most Christians know it by heart in their own language. There are minor differences.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p><i>Lukes contains shorter version of the prayer:</i> "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p><i>Matthew has the longer version of the prayer:</i> "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p><i>Lukes contains shorter version of the prayer:</i> "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."</p>	<p><i>Matthew has the longer version of the prayer:</i> "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'</p>
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Two commonly used versions:			

Contemporary	Traditional
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.	Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Other Christian Prayers:*

As well as the Lord’s Prayers, there are other prayers that Christian use in church, church services and for everyday life. For example:

The Sign of the Cross	The Hail Mary (Catholic Prayer)
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen	Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour our death. Amen

**Chanting:**

Chanting is the practice of rhythmic shouting, singing or repeating words out loud. They can be performed both with others and privately. Many communities of monks and nuns perform ancient chants and new ones are often composed and used in worship today. Many believe that chanting helps a worshiper to concentrate and experience God.

**Meditational Prayer:**

In this type of prayer, a worshipper thinks deeply about God, on their own and in silence. Some Christians, including Quakers, meditate together – they sit in silence or may be inspired to speak by God. They may use an object or a passage from the Bible to focus their meditation.

Are there different practices in different denominations?

**Catholicism**

\*Catholics may also say the Angelus, which is a series of short meditations performed three times a day (morning, noon and evening) in private, at home. It is observed by some Western Orthodox, Lutheran and Anglican churches.

\*Prayer Beads (rosary) – is a string of beads with a cross. Catholics use rosary beads when praying to focus on certain things. The beads are moved through the fingers when praying and the cross is held when reciting the Apostles Creed (A Christian creed based on the teaching of the Apostles. It had been written by the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD). Each of the beads represents a key event in Christianity, such as the death and resurrection of Jesus. The beads are commonly used when saying the Hail Mary. Some protestants may also use prayer beads.

Why do people prayer?

Christians pray for a variety of reasons:

- \*To build a relationship with God.
- \*To feel closer to God.
- \*To be guided by God.
- \*To praise God.

<p>*To ask for forgiveness.                  *To thank God.                  *To ask for help from God for themselves or for others.</p> <p>How do Christians act because of it? Does it make a difference? Do prayers lead to miracles?                  There are many examples in the Bible of people praying to God and then a miracle happening.</p> <p>Examples of prayer linked to miracles in the Bible:                  *1 Kings 17 - Elijah prayer for it to stop raining and it did for 3 and ½ years. Then, he prayed for it to rain again, which it did.                  *Genesis 30 – Rachel prayed for a son and she was given Joseph.                  *1 Samuel 1- Hannah’s prayed for a son and was given Samuel the prophet.</p> <p>Many Christians believe that by praying, their lives will be better. That could be in the form of comfort, guidance or a miracle.</p>	
Prior learning:	<p>FSU – Who am I and where do I belong? (Belonging)                  Y1 – What questions do stories in the Bible make us want to ask? (Truth, reasoning and meaning)                  Y2 – How do Christians know what is right? (Leaders &amp; teachers)                  Y3 – Does art help with understanding stories? (Parables)</p>
Building Blocks:	<p>Christians believe that they can communicate with God in prayer.                  They believe that God can communicate back to them.                  Christians believe that prayer makes a difference to them, other people and the world.                  Christians claim that miracles happen because they pray.</p>
Outcomes:	<p>Pupils will able to describe what prayer is and a range of ways to pray.                  Pupils will know why Christians pray.                  Pupils will know that for some Christians praying can cause miracles to happen.</p>
Resources:	<p>BBC Class Clips – Christian Prayer (overview of prayer)  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-christian-prayer/zbjv92p">https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-christian-prayer/zbjv92p</a>                  BBC Bitesize – Information for teachers about prayer.  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/znqck2p/revision/2">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/znqck2p/revision/2</a>                  Different versions of the Lord’s Prayers.  <a href="https://cofewinchester.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Versions_of_The_Lords_Prayer_r.pdf">https://cofewinchester.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Versions_of_The_Lords_Prayer_r.pdf</a>                  Re Quest - Prayer  <a href="https://request.org.uk/resource/life/spirituality/prayer/">https://request.org.uk/resource/life/spirituality/prayer/</a>                  RE Online – Prayer  <a href="https://www.reonline.org.uk/resources/prayer-who-what-where-why/">https://www.reonline.org.uk/resources/prayer-who-what-where-why/</a>                  Church of England – Prayers for everyday life  <a href="https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/everyday-faith/everyday-prayers#na">https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/everyday-faith/everyday-prayers#na</a>                  Catholic – Prayers  <a href="https://www.catholic.sk/main.php?page=101-en-Basic_Christian_Prayers">https://www.catholic.sk/main.php?page=101-en-Basic_Christian_Prayers</a>                  BBC news article about people’s view on prayer and miracles.  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-45679730">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-45679730</a>                  RE Quest – Miracles  <a href="https://request.org.uk/resource/?resource_search_phrase=miracles">https://request.org.uk/resource/?resource_search_phrase=miracles</a>                  National Gallery  <a href="https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/search-the-collection">https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/search-the-collection</a>                  Tate Modern  <a href="https://www.tate.org.uk/art">https://www.tate.org.uk/art</a></p>
Engagement:	
<p>You could start with a reflection or stilling activity to help the pupils focus their minds and talk about how it makes them feel. Possible activities could be:                  *Yoga</p>	

- \*Guided Meditation
- \*Breathing activities
- \*Forest bathing / Clouding watching

You could start by showing a piece of art that involves prayer. Examples can be found on the National Gallery and Tate Modern websites. Use classical pieces and compare and contrast them with modern pieces. You could use art from different cultures and compare these. You could use one piece of art to focus in depth on. Get the pupils in groups and only one pupil can come and see the art and then has to describe it to the rest of the group to draw. This could then be followed by questions such as:

- \*What can you see? What symbols are used? What do they mean?
- \*Who is in the picture? What do they feel? What are they doing? Why?
- \*What do the pictures have in common? What are the differences?
- \*What questions do they raise? What puzzles you? What wonders you?
- \*What does it remind you of? Does it link to anything else?

You could show a range of resources or artefacts that depict prayer such as art, song lyrics, written prayers, prayer books, videos of praying, prayer beads, prayer kneeling pads or prayer mats. Conduct a silent survey. The pupils then walk around and add their thoughts using post-it notes.

What is it? How is it used? What do they have in common? What is different?

Enquire and Explore:

Communication

You could start by asking the following questions:

- \*How do you communicate with people? Why? This will open up the discussion about how we talk to each other and for what reasons (to feel connected to people)
- \*How do Christians communicate with God? Why? How does God communicate with Christians? Why? This may bring up prayers, but also God communicating with humans via dreams, visions and angels and in person.

Christian Prayers

Then, explore the following questions focussing on prayer:

What is prayer? What form does it take? Why do people pray?

- \*You could start with looking at prayers they already know. Have a class discussion about the prayers they have seen or used. What form did they take? Why were they used? The pupils may share things like: class prayers, prayers used in assemblies and festival prayers such as harvest. They may explore prayers in other faiths. Look at these prayers and discuss what they have in common. What makes them a prayer?
- \*This then leads on to the form prayers take. Teach the pupils about **ACTS** and **I** as the five basic forms of a prayer. Why do Christians pray? Can they find these elements in the prayers they already know? Could they create a prayer with these different elements?
- \*Teach the pupils about the different prayers that Christians can use such as the Lord's prayers. You could use the Bible to teach the pupils why the Lord's prayer was created, by who and the different versions in the Bible. This could then lead on to how it is used by Christians and the different versions that have formed since the Bible. You could then explore other common prayers such as The Sign of the Cross or the Hail Mary.
- \*Explore other ways Christian pray such as: chanting, meditation, songs, hymns and wordless prayers. What is similar? What is different? Why are there different forms? Which one would you prefer and why?

Evaluate:

Use the following questions, deepen the pupil's learning about prayer:

How does prayer affect the life of a Christian? This could involve lessons on prayers leading to miracles. The pupils could research miracles found in the Bible and how they were linked to prayer. They could research examples of modern-day miracles. They could discuss their own view on miracles.

Do all Christians pray in the same way?

Do all Christians view prayer in the same way? Does it have the same importance to everyone?

Can you only pray in one way?

Do you need to be religious to pray?	
Reflect and communicate:	
<p>Get the pupils to reflect on the unit by looking at the following questions:                  Is prayer important? Who is it important to? Why?                  What is my view on prayer? What would a Christian say about prayer?                  What prayers does the world need today?</p>	
Assessment opportunities:	<p>Create a poster/ fact file about the different forms prayer can take.                  Create a leaflet to explain the reasons why Christians pray.                  Write a reflection on why prayer is important to a Christian.                  Write their own written prayer to reflect <b>ACTS</b> and <b>I or some other acronym</b>.                  Create your own prayer beads and an explanation of how to use them.</p>
Notes	