

KS2 Unit 4, Lesson 3: Prayer

Context: In this lesson we are asking pupils to explore prayer. The meaning of prayer, what the Bible says about prayer, how Christians pray. They will go on to see how prayer may be practiced differently by different people but that Christians can pray because they believe that God is everywhere, is all knowing and all powerful. They believe that Jesus is God's Son he has the power to help and because he is fully human he understands how we feel.

Overview:

- Identify how the belief that Jesus is 'God with us' helps a Christian in their daily life.
- Understand that Christians pray because they believe that Jesus is with them to listen and to help.
- Christians believe that 'God is Love' (1 John 4:8), compassionate, all knowing (omniscient), everywhere at once (omnipresent), all powerful (almighty), pure, set apart (holy)

Essential core:

Incarnation. That Christians pray because they believe that Jesus is with them to listen and to help.

Resources: Film clip - <http://request.org.uk/life/spirituality/prayer>

Paper/scissors/pencils to draw around own hands and cut out. Candle & matches.

Vocabulary:

all knowing (omniscient), everywhere at once (omnipresent), all powerful (almighty), pure, set apart (holy)

INTRODUCTION:

What kind of picture do you have when you hear the word prayer? Share responses.

Think about:

Have you ever prayed? What did you pray about? Ask pupils if they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts. Move on to prayers in school - The Lord's Prayer or any other commonly/regularly used prayer/response. Are there places to leave prayer requests, a prayer station, prayer tree etc. Would the pupils like the opportunity to leave prayer requests in a particular place?

Watch examples of what prayer means below- select film clips appropriate to own class.

<http://request.org.uk/life/spirituality/prayer>

This covers all aspects of prayer from praying in Church to Christians discussing the close relationship they have with God through prayer in a continuous thought or spoken dialogue.

BUILD UP:

What did Jesus teach about prayer? Pupils should know that this refers to The Lord's Prayer.

Use the annotated notes of The Lord's Prayer to analyse what Jesus taught about prayer.

<http://request.org.uk/jesus/teaching/jesus-teaching-prayer>

TASK:

How do people pray? Watch the film clip for helpful suggestions about what prayer means and how people pray.

<http://request.org.uk/life/spirituality/how-do-you-pray>

Draw around your own hands and cut out. On one hand write a prayer that is being thankful to God about something- this could be personal, for someone else, celebrating something in creation. On the other hand, think of a prayer that is about something you would like to ask God about. Think about: the people in the film clip who talk about needing to listen to God if they want to know that their prayer has been heard. Create a peaceful environment for reflection - (light a candle). Have they ever prayed and had a prayer answered, know someone who had a prayer answered?

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT: Why do Christian beliefs about God matter to them when they pray? Refer back to film clips for quotes that illustrate this. Discuss and then each write their own answer.