

# CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AND PRACTICES: PRAYER

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

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To gain a sound understanding of the nature of prayer and its importance to Christians

# PRAYER

Prayer is very important to Christians.

In this project we are going to explore the nature of prayer, the different ways Christians pray and investigate why it is so important to them.

# LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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## **BY THE END OF THIS PROJECT:**

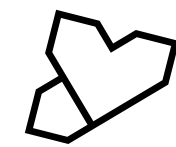
All of you will describe different types of prayer. You will have some understanding of why Christians pray.

Most of you will explain the different types of prayer and give several reasons for the importance of prayer to Christians.

Some of you will analyse in detail the different types of prayer and give a detailed explanation about the importance of prayer.

You will need some writing materials or you could use the specially created PDF file. This will help you record the fascinating facts that you are about to discover...

IT LOOKS A  
BIT LIKE THIS



RE:quest

## WHAT IS PRAYER? WHY IS PRAYER SO IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS?

RE:quest is full of amazing resources. They will help you get a better understanding of Christianity. In this project we are going to find out about prayer. We will also look at how Christians pray and find out why they do it.  
Use the PDF to help guide. Write your answers on paper or on this sheet.

**STARTER:** Going for a Song

**Google search:** 'songs with pray in the title'  
Create a list of 6 in the box below:

Why do you think people sing about prayer so much?  
**I think people sing about prayer so much because...**

**COMMUNAL PRAYER:** Praying in a group  
**The Book of Common Prayer**

What is the Book of Common Prayer?  
Why do you think people like to say these prayers together?  
**The Book of Common Prayer is...**



# GOING FOR A SONG

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If asked most people would say they don't pray. But if that's the case how come so many songs reference prayer?

For example:, The Weekend & Kendrick Lamar's Pray for Me. You can watch it [here](#).

Do a Google search: 'songs with pray in the title.' List 10 on the resource sheet.

Why do you think people sing about prayer so much?

Who do you talk to when you are happy, sad or worried?  
That's no different to Christians...

# WHAT EXACTLY IS PRAYER?

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Christians talk to family and friends too BUT they also talk to God – this communication is called **PRAYER**.

How do they talk to God?

PUT YOUR  
PHONE  
DOWN...

**THERE'S A MUCH EASIER  
WAY TO REACH GOD**

Christians have different ways of praying:

- Communal
  - Individual
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**WE'RE GOING TO EXPLORE THESE NOW...**





# COMMUNAL PRAYER

Christians come together to pray – it is a way of connecting with each other and strengthening the church community.



# COMMUNAL PRAYER

In churches it is often the priest or the minister who says the prayers.

In church, prayers are sometimes read out of a book. These are called 'set prayers'.

In the Church of England this is called the Book of Common Prayer. This was first written in 1549, but is still used today.

**THE PRIEST READS FROM THE BOOK.  
THE 'ANSWER' IS SAID BY EVERYONE IN CHURCH.  
HERE'S AN EXTRACT FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER:**

*Then the Minister shall kneel, and say the Lord's Prayer: the people also kneeling, and repeating it with him.*

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.

*Then likewise he shall say,*

*Priest.* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Answer.* And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

*Priest.* O God, make speed to save us.

*Answer.* O Lord, make haste to help us.

**YOU CAN READ ABOUT THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER HERE.**

**YOU CAN WATCH THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER BEING USED IN HOLY COMMUNION HERE.**

What is the Book of Common Prayer?

Why is the Book of Common Prayer so loved?

Why do you think people like to repeat these prayers together?



# THE LORD'S PRAYER

**THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A 'SET PRAYER'.**

It's often said in church by everyone together - although people say it on their own sometimes.

It's called 'The Lord's Prayer' because this is how Jesus taught his followers to pray.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

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.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

**READ HERE TO FIND OUT A BIT MORE.**

Once you've read the information on RE:quest, answer these questions:

Why did Jesus teach the disciples the Lord's Prayer?

People sometimes say it's the perfect prayer. Why do you think this is?



# INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Christians don't just go to church to pray, they pray private prayers, when they're on their own and in church.





# ALL BY MYSELF...

Watch this video to find out about how they pray. Click [here](#).

After watching the video, list different examples of the way people pray.

# PRAYER COMPARISON

Complete the Venn Diagram on the resource sheet.

**The things that are different need to stay in the outer circles. Anything the same should go in the middle.**

In your own words, explain the similarities between communal and individual prayer.

In your own words, explain the differences between communal and individual prayer.

# IS PRAYER JUST ABOUT TALKING TO GOD?

Is the reason we have two ears and one mouth because God's telling us to listen more?

Communication is a two-way thing: we talk, but we also listen. When you're chatting with your mates you also listen, you don't just blether on about stuff (or do you?)

This is the same with prayer – Christians don't just talk to God, they listen and expect to hear from Him.

# LISTENING IS IMPORTANT TOO...

Watch the video [here](#) to find out how God speaks to Christians.

Then watch the video about Aliss' experience of hearing from God [here](#).

List at least 5 ways in which God speaks to these Christians.



# WHY IS PRAYER IMPORTANT?

Read [here](#) to find out a bit more about why prayer is important to Christians.

In your own words explain why prayer is important to Christians.

Give at least 5 reasons

What is 'intercession'?



# THE PODCAST

You have been given an exclusive interview with a Christian on your very popular current affairs podcast. Your subject is prayer.

Create a script for this interview.

Order of service:

Thinking about the learning so far on this project; write up a list of questions.

Write out the answers to these questions.

Now create your script - have a look at the example to help you format it correctly.



# SUCCESS CRITERIA

## **TO DO THIS WELL YOU SHOULD:**

Ask at least 10 questions

Answer the questions fully in your script

Present the script in the correct format

As the interviewer, summarise the learning about prayer at the end

# REFLECTION

**‘WHEN PEOPLE GET IN TROUBLE OR ARE SCARED THEY OFTEN PRAY.’**

Do you agree with the above statement?

Why or why not?

Have you ever prayed?

Was your prayer answered or not?

If you could say anything to God, what would it be?

# PLENARY: GET CREATIVE

**CHAT | CAR | PARTY | PHONE | OCEAN**

Explain how each of these random words might link to prayer.



A person with their face and body covered in vibrant, multi-colored body paint (red, blue, yellow, green, and purple). They are wearing large, round, colorful goggles. A massive, billowing cloud of bright red powder or paint fills the left side of the frame, partially obscuring the person's face. The background is a clear blue sky. The overall scene is celebratory and energetic.

# YOU'VE COMPLETED YOUR MISSION!

**SEND IT TO YOUR TEACHER**

and sit back with the satisfaction  
of knowing you did a great job!



# EXTENSION ACTIVITY: MIND MAP

Produce a mind map of your learning about prayer. You should use key words and images.

**Keywords:** prayer, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, communal, individual, communication, intercession, Church of England, Book of Common Prayer, the Lord's Prayer.