



YEAR

3

UNIT G

PRAYER

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit involves the children learning something about the prayer life of Jesus. They will examine and reflect on some of the ways in which Catholics pray and the signs and symbols associated with prayer.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit links with previous work on prayer in Year 2.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- knowledge of the Our Father and Hail Mary
- experience of different styles of prayer
- some knowledge of Catholic signs and symbols.

SKILLS

Thinking skill, reflection skills, interpreting symbols, reading skills, research skills.

VOCABULARY

Prayer, Cross, Candles, Church building, Blessed Sacrament, holy water, confession, statues, genuflection, sign of peace, sukkot, Psalm.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that Jesus valued his relationship with God his Father in prayer. They will understand that people can pray in different ways and will be able to talk about different styles of prayer and some symbols used to help people to pray.

Less able children will know that prayer is important to the life of a Christian and will be able to identify some styles of prayer.

More able children will have a greater understanding of the meaning of some gestures and actions associated with prayer. They will be able to talk about why moments of prayerful reflection are important and how through prayer Christians follow the example of Jesus who prayed to God his Father.

	A.T.1	A.T.2
	3b	3b
	3c	
		3d
	2a	
		2b
		2d
	3b	3b
	3c	3c
		3d
	4b	4d

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C10 Prayer in the life of Jesus.

- Children to recall some of the fun things they enjoy doing.
- How many of these are associated with spending time with other people.
- Jesus enjoyed spending time and doing things with other people. Can the children recall different events from his life when he did this?
- Jesus enjoyed spending time with God, his Father when he prayed.
- Share the story of Jesus going up to the hills to pray.
- Why do you think Jesus did this?
- How do you think that praying to his Father helped Jesus?
- What sort of things might Jesus have spoken to the Father about in prayer?
- Provide the children with an opportunity to experience some quiet reflective time. Use candles, focal points such as an icon or cross and some music. Direct them into thinking about the things that they want to speak to the Father about the most and the things that they want to praise and thank God for. Provide a few moments for quiet reflection, asking the children just to sit and listen.

C11 A variety of forms of prayer.

- Revise with pupils the litany format of prayer as previously learnt in key-stage 1. Use this as a way of thinking about praising and thanking God for the many gifts they have received.
- Places can be special for prayer.
- Explore with the children some of the different places in a Catholic Church that are special for prayer. Include the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, lighting candles, the way of the cross, blessing with holy water, confessional and other sacred images.
- Visit the church and provide the children with moments to sit and think about what they can see and what that might tell them about the importance of prayer.
- Children to write a reflection on what they have seen in the church and how it might help them to pray.
- The church is not the only place that we can pray. Jesus told his disciples to pray constantly and so everywhere can be a place of prayer. Children to think about different places that can help them think of God, e.g. something in creation, some object or religious artefact or picture, focal point in class, somewhere in their home. Children discuss and write about their special place for prayer.
- Explore with the children some of the different actions and gestures that are important for prayer and worship.
- Include here genuflection to the Blessed Sacrament, offering the sign of peace at Mass, making the sign of the cross, making the sign of the cross on head, lips and heart, at the gospel, bowing, carrying the cross and candles in the procession at Mass, using rosary beads.
- Why are these actions important? What is the meaning of them?

C10 Prayer in the life of Jesus.

- Jesus grew up as a Jewish child and experienced many of the Jewish customs and traditions of prayer. Introduce the children to some of the special prayer traditions of the Jewish religion that Jesus would have been used to.
- Children to find out about Sukkot the Jewish feast of the harvest and the creation shelters in the garden decorated with fruit and branches.
- Introduce the children to a selection of Jewish psalms of thanksgiving for creation. Ask them to discuss the words in groups and decide which they like the best and for what reasons.
- Jesus wanted his own disciples to share his life of prayer. Look at the words of the "Our Father" with the children.
- Children to think about the different statements and try and explain the meaning of the words. Which statements in the prayer do the children like the most? Why? What does the prayer tell us about God as our Father?
- Mary and Joseph would have taught Jesus how to pray. Christians claim Mary to be not only the Mother of God but their mother as well.
- Look at the words of the "Hail Mary" what do they tell us about Mary? What do the children think are the meanings of some of the statements?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

C10 Know what Jesus said about prayer and how he prayed to God his Father.

- Know about Jesus praying to God his Father
- Understand some reasons why this time of prayer was important to him.
- Join in moments of prayerful reflection.

C11 Increased understanding of a variety of forms of prayer.

C3 Of the significance and power of signs and symbols.

- Know that many places are special for people to pray.
- Identify some of the places in a Catholic Church that help people to pray
- Recognise that the importance of signs and symbols and actions in moments of prayer and worship.

C10 Know what Jesus said about prayer and how he prayed to God his Father.

- Know about some of the Jewish festivals of prayer that Jesus would have celebrated.
- Discuss and reflect on some of the psalms as prayers Jesus would have known.

- Know by heart the words of the “Our Father” and the “Hail Mary”.
- Be able to discuss the statements in the prayers and some meanings to them.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mk. 1: 35-36 – Jesus Goes to Pray in the Hills

Mk. 6: 9-15 – Jesus Teaches His Apostles to Pray

Lk. 11: 1-4

OTHER LINKS

ICT links: Use clip art packages to find images of religious symbols to create posters.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Provide children with moments of quiet prayer. Create a Prayerful atmosphere using candles, music and focal point.
- Use some of the gestures of prayer during collective worship such as the sign of peace. Marking the cross on head, lips and heart before reading the Gospel.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?