



# YEAR

# 4

# UNIT B

## JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO PRAY

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will learn about the prayer life of Jesus as he grew up in the Jewish faith. The children will be introduced to some prayers from the Old Testament and they will consider the importance Jesus attached to prayer. The children will study the Our Father, the prayer of the Rosary and some other forms of prayer as part of this unit.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds upon previous work in Year 2 and Year 3 when children learnt about different forms of prayer.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some experience of the prayers attached to the Rosary
- some experience of prayers from the Bible.

### SKILLS

Thinking skills, discussion, observation, interpreting symbols, research skills, being able to sit still, liturgy preparation skills.

### VOCABULARY

Jew, synagogue, Shema, Psalms, prayer, silence, Our Father, Glory to God, praise, thanks, listening, Mary, rosary.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
<b>Most children will</b> know that Jesus prayed to the Father and they will be able to identify some of the prayers that he learnt growing up in the Jewish faith. They will be able to explain why it is important to call and to pray to God the Father. They will know some of the traditional prayers of the Church including the prayer of the Rosary.	3a 3b 3c	3a 3b 3c 3d
<b>Less able children will</b> know that it was important for Jesus to pray to God his Father. They will be able to identify some reasons why Christians pray and will have a limited knowledge of some traditional prayers of the Church.	2a 2b 2c	2a 2c 2d
<b>More able children will</b> have a greater knowledge and understanding of the religious customs and practices that Jesus grew up with. They will be able to explain the meaning of Jesus' prayer to the Father and recognise why different forms of prayer are important to Christians.	3a 4b 4c	3d 4a 4b

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

### C1 Prayer in the life of Jesus.

- Jesus grew up as a Jew. Remind the children that Jews believe they are descendents of Abraham to whom God made his promise.
- Recall previous learning on the giving of the promise by God to Abraham and his descendents.
- Remind the children that the first five books of the Bible contain the story of Abraham and some of his descendents.
- Explain to the children that the Jewish people show great respect for the books of the Old Testament. These are kept on scrolls and are read from the scrolls in the Synagogue.
- Show children pictures of a Synagogue. Identify key religious artefacts. Include the Holy Ark containing the Scrolls of the Torah, the Words of the Ten Commandments, the Menorah (a seven branched candlestick) and the Bimah (a reading stand).
- Explain to the children that Jesus went to the Synagogue as a child and an adult and would have heard the readings of the Old Testament from the Scrolls that are kept in the Synagogue.
- Show children some pictures of Jewish people reading from the scrolls today. Emphasise the reverence and respect that they show to the scriptures.
- Jesus would have learnt some important prayers as a child from the Old Testament. One of these prayers is the "Shema". Deuteronomy 6: 4-7 – "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by your way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."
- What does the prayer say about God?
- What does the person who recites this prayer have to do?
- What might the prayer mean to you today?
- Jesus would have learnt psalms from the Old Testament. Research psalm 26[27]. Jesus would have prayed these words. What do they say about God? What might they say about Jesus' relationship with God?
- Children to write their own prayer using "The Lord is my light and my help" as the starting line.
  
- Explain to the children that for Jewish people at the time of Jesus, it was very important to visit the temple in Jerusalem whenever they could. This was a very special place of prayer for them.
- Children to read psalm 122 about going up to the temple of Jerusalem. Explain that this was a psalm Jesus might have sung on his journeys to Jerusalem.
- Children to read the story of the finding of Jesus in the temple.
- Role-play this event.
- What does the story tell us about Jesus' relationship with God his Father?
- How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they heard Jesus talking with all the elders in the temple?
- Children to write Mary or Joseph's diary entry for this event.
  
- The Gospels tell us that Jesus often spent time praying to God his Father.
- Children to read the story of Jesus alone in the hills, the prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper, the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and the prayer of Jesus from the cross.
- Children to highlight some of the important things that Jesus said to God the Father and the way in which he prayed.
- Ask the children to consider what they like about these different stories of the prayer of Jesus and how they were also difficult moments for Jesus.

### C2 The prayer Jesus taught his friends (Our Father) and its significance.

- Look at the story of Jesus teaching his disciples how to pray. Go through the "Our Father" line by line and discuss the meaning of these words.
- Explore through questions (e.g. What does it mean to keep God's name Holy? What is God's Kingdom? What does it mean for God to give us bread? What else do we ask of God? What do we have to do?).

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**C1** That Jesus prayed and taught his disciples to pray.

- Know that Jesus grew up in a Jewish tradition of prayer.
- Know some of the Old Testament prayers he would have learnt. These will include the “Shema” and some of the psalms of praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Understand that the synagogue was a special place where Jesus would have heard the Old Testament scriptures.
- Identify and name some Jewish religious artefacts found in the synagogue.

- Know that Jesus enjoyed a special and close relationship with God whom he called his Father.
- Understand that when Jesus prayed alone in the hills, in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross he was speaking with his Father.
- Think and discuss why it is important for Christians to call and pray to God the Father.

**C2** That the “Our Father” contains different forms of prayer.

- Identify different forms of prayer (e.g. praise of God, forgiveness, intercession for needs) in the Our Father.
- Understand that it is important to pray to God in different ways.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Create a display of Jewish artefacts from the Synagogue.

Children to make their own scroll writing their own version of psalms and prayers from the Bible. These could be used in collective worship.

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## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**C5** A variety of prayers and prayer forms, formal and informal, used for personal and community prayer.

- Identify different forms of Prayer in the “Our Father”: Praise, Intercession, and Forgiveness.
- Children to write their own version of the prayer.
  
- Look at a range of prayers that Catholics pray and note references to the Father: Glory to God in the highest, the opening of the Creed, school prayers for the beginning of the day and Offertory prayers at Mass.
- Highlight some of the things that these prayers say about God the Father.
- In these prayers we find different types of prayer (e.g. Praise, Intercession and Thanksgiving). Can the children identify different forms of prayer in these prayers?
- What image of God do the prayers provide us with?
- Children to write their own prayers in the style of some of these prayers of the Church (e.g. Taking the first line of a prayer and then writing their own prayer).
  
- Children to read the story of Martha and Mary.
- Create character portraits for Martha and Mary.
- Write about actions of Martha and Mary.
- What did Jesus say about them both?
- Why did Mary choose the better part?
- Explain to the children that listening and silence is a special form of prayer.
- Provide opportunities for silent prayer. Use symbols for focus (e.g. Candle, Cross, Icon, background music).
- Introduce breathing exercises. Imagine you are sitting at the feet of Jesus. What is he saying to you? What are you saying to him?
- Explain to the children that listening is a form of prayer.
- Children to write up their imaginative prayer exercise.
  
- Catholic Christians ask Mary the Mother of Jesus, and the Saints, to pray for them.
- Look at different images of Mary as portrayed in pictures and statues. Children to talk about their favourite images of Mary. What do they tell us about Mary? Can you see any similarities between the images?
- Introduce children to the story of St. Dominic and the origins of the Rosary.
- Revise previous learning from Year 2 about the Rosary.
- Remind children of the structure of the prayer, include the terms decades and mysteries. Can the children recall any aspects of the life of Jesus and Mary that we remember in the prayer of the Rosary?
- Children to find out the names of the different mysteries of the Rosary and what we remember in these mysteries.
- Why do you think they are called joyful, sorrowful and glorious?
- Children to create a class presentation on the origins of the Rosary and why they think this is an important form of prayer for some people today.
  
- Throughout the unit we have considered the importance of prayer in the life of Jesus and in the lives of other people. As a conclusion to this unit of work children to write some short reflections on prayer and what it means to them. These could be used in a class-based prayer service.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Discuss the meaning of the words of the Our Father and write their own version.
  
- Know that many of our Church prayers are addressed to God the Father.
- Understand they remind us of our need to praise and thank God and ask him to help us.
- Identify some of the things that are said about God the Father in some Church prayers, e.g. the Gloria.
  
- Know the story of the visit of Jesus to Martha and Mary.
- Understand that this story reminds us of the importance of prayer.
- Discuss the different choices made by Martha and Mary.
  
- C5** Know a developing range of prayers.  
Know the story of the founding of the Rosary by St Dominic.
- Know the structure of the prayer and the names of the mysteries of the Rosary.
- Understand that it is a form of prayer that helps us to reflect on the life of Jesus and Mary.
- Explain some reasons why Christians pray this prayer.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Link this part of the unit of work to school liturgy for October and the Solemnity of All Saints.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Deuteronomy 4: 7* – The Prayer of Israel

*Psalm 26 (27)* – The Lord is My Light and My Help

*Psalm 122* – Journeying to the Temple of the Lord

*Lk. 2: 41-51* – Jesus Visits the Temple

*Mt. 6: 7-15* – Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

*Lk. 10: 38-42* – The Story of Martha and Mary

## OTHER LINKS

Multicultural Link: Explore other Jewish prayer observances.

Music Link: Psalms are songs. Learn some versions of the Psalms set to music.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use Psalms and other prayers from the scriptures during Collective Worship.
- Sing some version of a Psalm.
- Pray some of the Rosary reflecting on an important mystery in the life of Jesus and Mary.

## 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?**