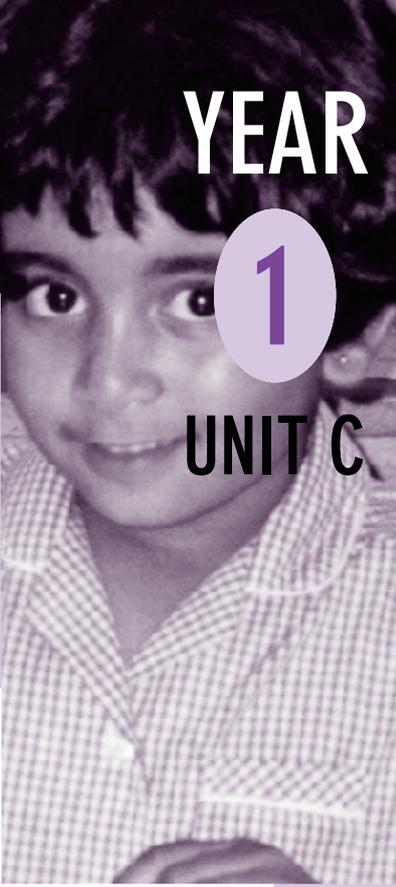


YEAR

1

UNIT C



PRAYER

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's understanding of prayer as a special way of spending time with God. In the unit the children will also explore the vocabulary, actions, places and aids associated with prayer, with particular reference to the prayer of praise and intercession. The children will also explore how Christians give praise to God in the psalms and in prayers like the "Glory Be To The Father" and the "Our Father".

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning on prayer in Reception. It is also the foundation for other units on prayer in Year 2 and Year 3.

PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- prior knowledge of what prayer is
- prior experience of praying together for various reasons
- prior knowledge of the "Our Father".

SKILLS

Thinking skills, recall of knowledge, prayer writing, psalm writing, group work, reflection, guided meditation.

VOCABULARY

Prayer, God, praise, thank, psalm, celebration, Glory Be To The Father, Our Father, candles, incense, blessing, holy water, altar, statue, icon, sign of the cross, Lord hear our prayer.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will understand that prayer is a special way of spending time with God and will be able to describe ways in which they pray. They will be able to identify what they want to praise, thank and ask God for in prayer and will be able to include these in their own prayers. They will also understand how some things can help Christians pray and the way in which Christians give praise and thanks to God in traditional prayers.	1a 1b	1a 1b
Less able children will understand that prayer is a special way of spending time with God and will be able to create simple prayers of praise, thanks and intercession.	1a	1a
More able children will have a greater understanding of prayer as a way of spending time with God and will be able to express their praise and thanks in a more sophisticated way. They will be able to identify a greater range of things to include in their own prayers.	2a 2b 2c	2a 2b 2c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C1 Take part in celebrations which express thanks and praise.
C9 To use their own words for prayer.

C8 To hear, use and join in prayers from Scripture and Tradition.

- Children to think about the different people they like talking to and spending time with.
- Reflect with the children about prayer being an important time for Christians to talk to God and to spend sometime with God.
- When do we pray at school? What do we say and do? What is the difference between our morning, lunchtime and evening prayers? What things are we saying to God at the different times of the day?
- Explore with the children why prayer time is important and special for everybody in school.
- Children to imagine that somebody is about to come into class who knows nothing about prayer. What things would they tell this person about prayer?

- In the Celebrations unit we learned to say thank you to God. What else do we say to God when we pray?
- Explore with the children common vocabulary within prayer (e.g. praising God, thanking God, asking God to help us, telling God that we love him).
- Children to think of things that they praise God for. What are the things that they thank God for? What are the things that they ask God's help with?
- Why do you think it is important to thank God and ask God's help? Make a class list that can be referred to during prayer time.
- Provide the children with examples of prayers that praise and thank God and ask for God's help.
- Provide writing frames to help the children structure their individual prayers to praise, thank and ask God's help.
- Create word banks for the children to use as they write their own prayers asking God's help and thanking God for the gifts that they receive.

- Investigate Psalm 150. Identify the different ways and places where God can be praised.
- Group activity to create a praise psalm (this could be taped).

- Learn the Glory be to the Father as a prayer of praise. Remind the children that in this prayer we remember that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Do we always have to pray out loud with words?
- Explore opportunities to talk to God quietly without speaking any words. Reflect with the children about enjoying peoples company sometimes even when you don't speak. Contrast this with opportunities for silent prayer.
- Lead the children in a guided meditation about talking to Jesus when we pray.

- Explore the use of aids to prayer and places to pray (e.g. candles, incense, music, actions, blessing with holy water, the altar, side chapels, statues and icons). If possible visit the church and identify different things that help people to pray.
- Ask the children to think about why the church is an important place to pray in. Ask them to recall some of their thoughts and feelings about this special place of prayer.
- Children to write a short reflection about their visit to the church and what they saw and experienced.

- Explore with the children some of the different actions that we do when we pray (e.g. Joining hands, sitting, standing and kneeling, sign of the cross, etc.)
- Discuss the different people that we pray for. Make a prayer web with the names of the different people who need the help of our prayers.
- Create prayers of intercessions for other people's needs. Teach the children a response to the prayers of intercession (e.g. Lord, Hear our prayer).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C1 Develop an understanding of the reasons to thank and praise God.

C9 That in prayer God speaks to us.

- Know that Christians gather together to thank and praise God for all his gifts and explain why they do so.
- Use their own words to write prayers of praise, thanks and intercession.
- Appreciate that when we pray we talk to God.

- Know that the Psalms are special prayers that thank and praise God for his gifts.
- Be able to create a “praise psalm”.

C8 Know of some traditional prayers of the Church – wider range; of how to pray together, silent prayer; that they can speak to God in formal prayer and in their own words.

- Know that silence is an opportunity to listen and pray to God.
- Identify some of the different ways people pray in Church.
- Use their own words to write simple thank you and asking prayers.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Link with maths and different times that we pray during the day.

Link with music. Identifying instruments and using percussion.

Learn a sung version of the Our Father.

continued...

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

R2 Hear, read and explore and reflect upon a variety of Scripture imagery which speaks of God in the New Testament.

C10 To hear about and explore Jesus' prayer to the Father.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

- November is the special month for remembering those who have died. Who would they like to remember? Create a special prayer for those who have died.
- Children to share the story of how Jesus taught the disciples to pray the "Our Father".
- Create a version of the Our Father on A3 paper for the children to read with you.
- What are the children's favourite words in this prayer?
- Think and talk about the meaning of some of the special words in this prayer. What does it say about God our Father? What are some of the things we ask God to do?
- Create actions to go with the words. This could be done in pairs.
- Identify parts of the Our Father which praise, give thanks to God or ask God's help.
- Explain to the children that this is the daily prayer of all Christians and that it reminds us that we belong to the wider Family of God.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

R2 That scripture stories reveal and hand on Good News about God and contain messages about life; that Jesus reveals the Good News of God his Father.

C10 That Jesus celebrated the blessings of God his Father.

- Recall the scripture passage when Jesus told his disciples to call God their Father.
- Learn and reflect together on the Our Father.
- Know that the Our Father is a prayer which unites all Christians.
- Understand the meaning of some of the special words in this prayer.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt. 6: 9-15 – Jesus Teaches His Disciples How to Pray

Lk. 11: 1-4

OTHER LINKS

Music links: Some important music links exist with this unit of work. Explore with the children that music and singing can be an important form of prayer.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use music and hymns during class prayer.
- Highlight praise, thank you and asking prayers.
- Use different gestures and postures in prayer.
- Pray the “Our Father” using both words and actions.

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?