

Prayer Spaces in Schools

Learning from a prayer space

KS2 – Lesson 3 of 4

Christian prayer: connections

Learning opportunities for 7-11s on themes about prayer and reflection.

Prayer Spaces in Schools create extraordinary opportunities for children and young people to think about prayer and to consider spirituality in open-minded experiential ways.

This lesson is one of a series written by Lat Blaylock of RE Today and provided free to schools to enable learners to use critical and reflective thinking skills to learn about spirituality, prayer and reflection.



Since 2010 [Prayer Spaces in Schools](#) has been helping people to create space in schools where pupils can pause to reflect or pray.

A prayer space provides a safe place for children to be still, to think and feel, to ask questions, to reflect and to explore prayer for themselves using simple activities that are creative and interactive. Every prayer space is rooted in a Christian understanding of prayer whilst being accessible to people of any faith or belief.

These spaces make a valuable contribution to the wellbeing of pupils, and to the pastoral and spiritual life of whole school communities.

Prayer Spaces in Schools GB is an initiative of 24-7 Prayer, an international movement that helps people to pray.



[RE Today Services](#) supports teachers, schools and others involved in Religious Education by equipping and empowering them to teach about religious and non-religious worldviews with confidence. They offer training courses, professional development, consultancy and a wide range of resources to teachers in thousands of schools of every kind.



We are grateful to the [Westhill Endowment](#) for their generous support which has enabled us to create these resources and to make them available for free.

KS2 Lesson 3 of 4

Christian prayer: connections

Learning opportunities for 7-11s on themes about prayer and reflection.

Purpose

This lesson plan is written for use after pupils have experienced a Prayer Space.

There is one lesson plan for use before a Prayer Space and two others for use after to help pupils draw out further learning from their experience.

Learning objectives

- That learners get to think about the meaning of the Lord's Prayer
 - To explore the potential connections between learners' experience of a Prayer Space and the Lord's Prayer
 - To reflect on the beliefs inherent in this prayer and the implications and on the faith and action of believers
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Learning outcomes

By the end of this lesson learners will:

- Have investigated the meaning of the Lord's Prayer
 - Have reflected on the connections between the prayer activities in a Prayer Space and the phrases of the Lord's Prayer
 - Have a greater understanding of the implications this prayer implies on the beliefs and actions of believers
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You will need...

- The accompanying presentation.
- Slide 10** – We've provided a printable version of the thinking frame.
- You may wish to give pupils large sheets of paper and pens to be able to record any group discussions.

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Slide notes

Most slides have presenter notes offering supporting information.

Slide 1 – Aims

Aims of these lessons:

-  To provide excellent and respected classroom resources for teachers of RVE / RME / RE to use in lessons when a Prayer Spaces visit is coming, taking place or has happened,
-  To enable teachers and Prayer Spaces volunteers to deliver quality RVE / RME / RE about prayer which connects to the experiences of the Prayer Spaces provision.
-  To enable pupils to think for themselves about prayer and its meanings, and access opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Slide 2 – The learning package

This lesson is part of a larger ‘Prayer Spaces in Schools’ learning package and can be used by teachers and school visitors, especially if they are involved in supporting the school by running a Prayer Space or reflection space.

The lessons:

- Can be taught - with preparation - ‘off the shelf’ using the 4 presentation sequences provided
 - Will be understood better by teachers and school visitors if you watch our training recorded webinars from Lat Blaylock of RE today
 - Include examples of pupils’ work, art, writing and responses
 - Are suitable for use across the UK, recognising what is distinctive about RME / RVE / RE in each of the four nations
 - Reference law, guidance and inspection requirements for RE / SMSCD / School Worship
 - Use some Prayer Spaces in Schools case studies
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Slide 4 – ‘Prayer Space’ - Learning about Christian prayer

For classroom use, start here.

This slide introduces the ‘big topic’ of Christian prayer and specifically The Lord’s Prayer.

This is to establish the topic for this lesson and to ground investigation of the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer in its place as common to Christian believers across the world.

Slide 5 – ‘Prayer Space’ - Learning about Christian prayer

Introducing the topic, The Lord’s Prayer

Slide 6 – What does the Bible offer to help us understand Christian prayer?

Some facts and figures about the Lord’s Prayer.

There are some extra ideas in the presenter notes for this slide.

Class question (maybe rhetorical) – What makes it so important, loved and valued?

Slide 7 – The Lord’s Prayer – “Our Father...”

This is the Lord’s Prayer – show it before clicking through to the questions on this slide.

The first click will take you to:

Class question – What do you think are the six key words in the prayer?

You may wish to invite children to answer before revealing our suggestion on the next click.

Slide 8 – Questions for thinking about the Lord’s Prayer

Get the class to organise into pairs

Invite them to choose a question and then discuss it in their pairs.

There’s an opportunity to hear feedback from a few pairs, but there is more in-depth exploration to come so it is fine to move on after learners have discussed.

Slides 9 – Thinking about praying

An A4 printable version of this thinking frame is included and should be printed out in advance of the lesson.

This contribution to classroom RE / RVE / RME recognises the value of rich knowledge about prayer for pupils, and also encourages the deployment of that knowledge as pupils handle big questions and issues thoughtfully. This contributes to providing opportunities through the learning for spiritual development.

Slide 10 – Re-writing The Lord’s Prayer

Class activity – In pairs write a version of The Lord’s Prayer that you think would work for children age 7.

Use the ideas you recorded on the thinking frame to help.

Slides 11 to 13 – Expressing your own viewpoints – can you do this?

These three slides provide examples of how children in Year 5 have interpreted the meaning of different phrases of The Lord's Prayer.

Slide 14 – “Our Father...” Learn about the Lord's Prayer

Watch the animation of the Lord's Prayer at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4R-WFkm41s>

There are lots of alternatives to this on YouTube – select one that your learners will appreciate. What do learners like about the presentation, the words, the animation? Tell learners how this might be used in worship at a church, and talk about the language of this version- recap any words learners are learning to understand. Remind children that the Lord's Prayer has been used for hundreds of years. It is also used all over the world by millions of people.

To enable the learners to make sense of the prayer in a creative way, ask them in small groups to plan their own presentation by choosing images and music to go with each phrase of the prayer. They might use an ICT based image bank, pictures cut from magazines, or their own artwork. This activity links to literacy (non-fiction texts) and to expressive arts

Talk about how the Lord's Prayer is used. Can the children suggest what is meant by the phrase used by many Christians 'the power of prayer'? It is to do with the idea in Christian belief that God listens to and hears all prayers, and that prayers can be answered

Slides 15 to 16 – More ways to think about The Lord's Prayer

A classroom display

Artwork depicting each of the lines from The Lord's Prayer

Sung versions with YouTube links

Watch some sung versions of the Lord's Prayer.

Learn a lot by comparing the versions, which are all slightly different. Which one do you like best and why?

A Welsh language version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3VA6T8Gco0>

A children's choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6STLRycSnE>

A Canadian modern version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2vSnQ3JASk>

A line-by-line call and response teaching version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kP29O6rILWc>

An animated version, simple and clear: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlgwnR3l2QQ>

Slide 17 – Is the Lord's Prayer connected to the Prayer Space you visited?

Some questions to engage children in considering how their experience of the prayer space might connect to what they've discovered about The Lord's Prayer. Maybe choose just one or two questions.

What is God like?

How could a human respect or worship God?

How can we pray for a better world?

Did you think about being forgiven or delivered?

What are your thoughts about the idea that God is powerful and can help those who pray?

Slide 18 – So what did we learn?

Use these prompts for final conversation in pairs, groups or whole class, or for writing if you need it. These provide OFSTED and inspection processes with excellent evidence of pupils' understandings of spirituality, if that is what you need.

This lesson is very full, so do be selective in which parts you use, or spread it over two sessions.