

# Prayer Spaces in Schools

## Learning from a prayer space

### **KS3** Lesson 3 of 4

## Investigating prayer with social science methods

Learning opportunities for 11-14s 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.

## Printable classroom materials

These pages go with Slides 7 - 17



is part of  
 **24-7 PRAYER**



# RE research project on prayer

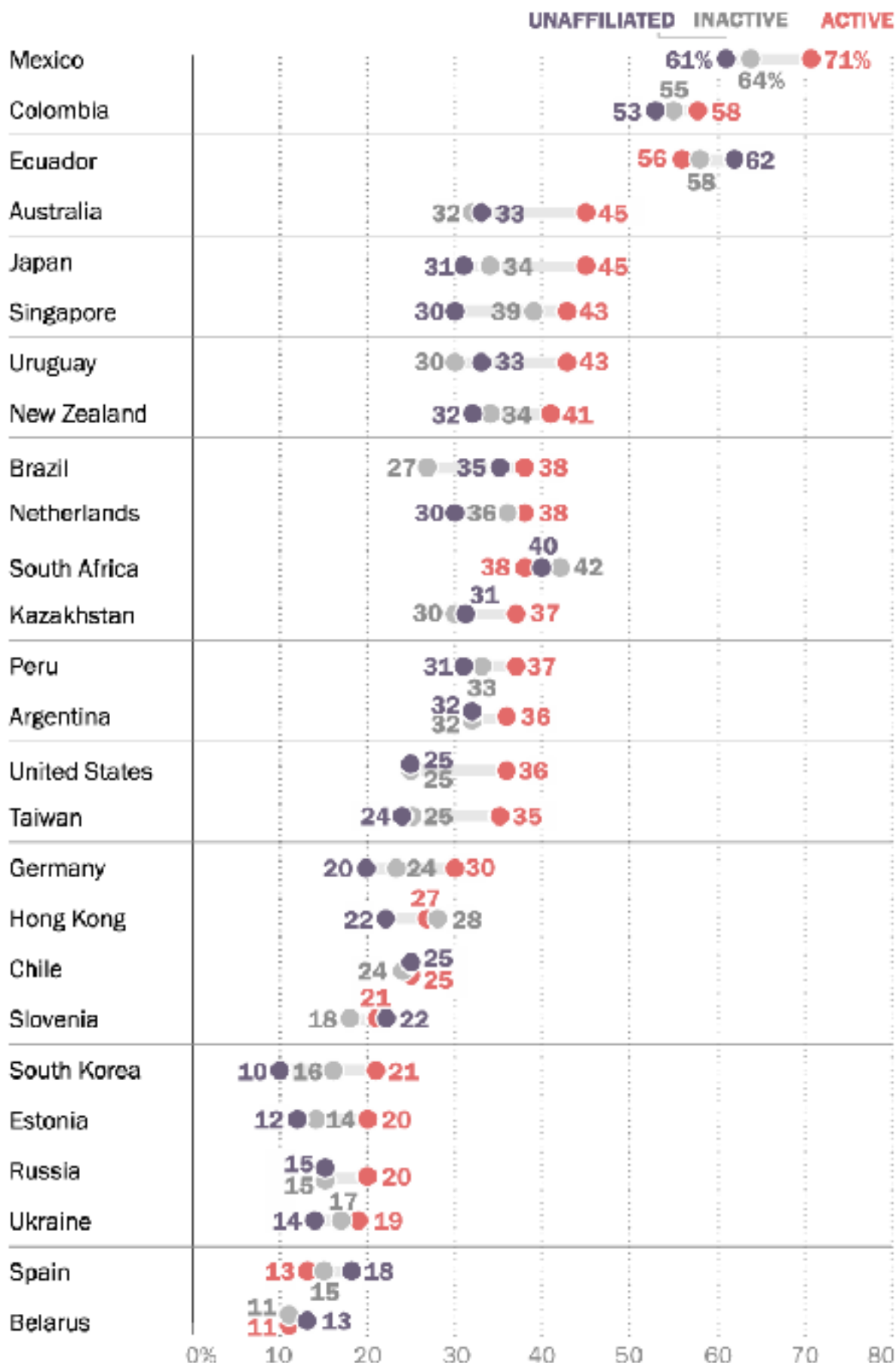
We are researching views and ideas on the topic of prayer in our community. We are interested in opinions and ideas from people who are religious and those who are not religious. There are no 'correct' or 'incorrect' answers here. Please consider helping us in our school RE learning about beliefs and ideas to do with prayer. All our research is anonymous, and we will not record your name. Other students in our school may read the answers recorded on this sheet.

<b>a.</b> Do you regard yourself as belonging to a religion? If so, which.	Yes/No	Religion/worldview:		
<b>b.</b> How often do you pray, if at all? [please tick applicable box]	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once a day		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	At least once a week		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	At least once a month		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Occasionally (less than once a month)		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never		
<b>c.</b> If you don't mind indicating your age, it will help us compare with other sociological data on frequency of prayer. [please circle]	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44
	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
<b>d.</b> How far do you agree with the following statements? [please tick]	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<i>i.</i> Prayer works, in the sense that it can bring about change for the people or situation you are praying for				
<i>ii.</i> Prayer works, in the sense that it makes you feel more at peace				
<i>iii.</i> Prayer doesn't work in any way.				
<b>e.</b> Which of the following have you prayed about? [please circle]	Guidance	Thanking God	Friends	Healing
	Family	Yourself (your own needs)	Worldwide problems	Material needs
<b>f.</b> There are many reasons why people pray. Which of these, if any, are reasons why you pray? [please circle]	To communicate with God		I believe in a higher power	
	To gain comfort or feel less lonely		I believe in God	
	In times of personal crisis or tragedy		I believe prayer makes a difference	
	Other: [please comment]			
<b>g.</b> What do you think might be the benefits of prayer for those who pray? Any other comments on prayer are very welcome.				

Thank you for your responses to our questionnaire.

# Actively religious people tend to be happier

% who say they are "very happy," among those who are religiously ...



"Religion's Relationship to Happiness, Civic Engagement and Health Around the World"



In general, more people said they believe God hears their prayers than believe God can answer them.



Christians are three times as likely as non-religious people to say they believe that prayer changes the lives of people living in poverty in developing countries.



40 per cent of people who pray said they believe that it changes what happens in their lives - but that ranges from 77 per cent of Muslims to 12 per cent of people with no religion.



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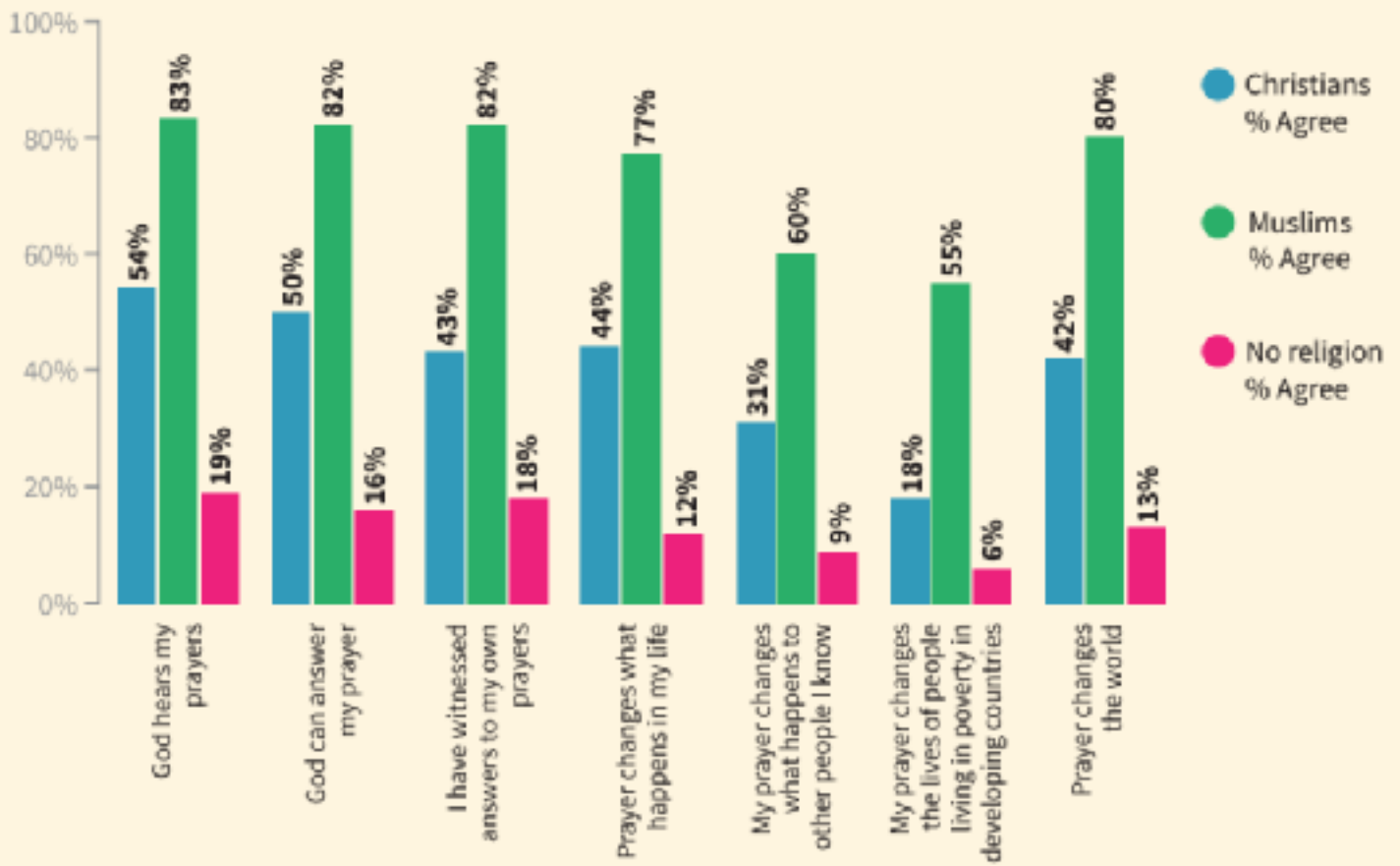


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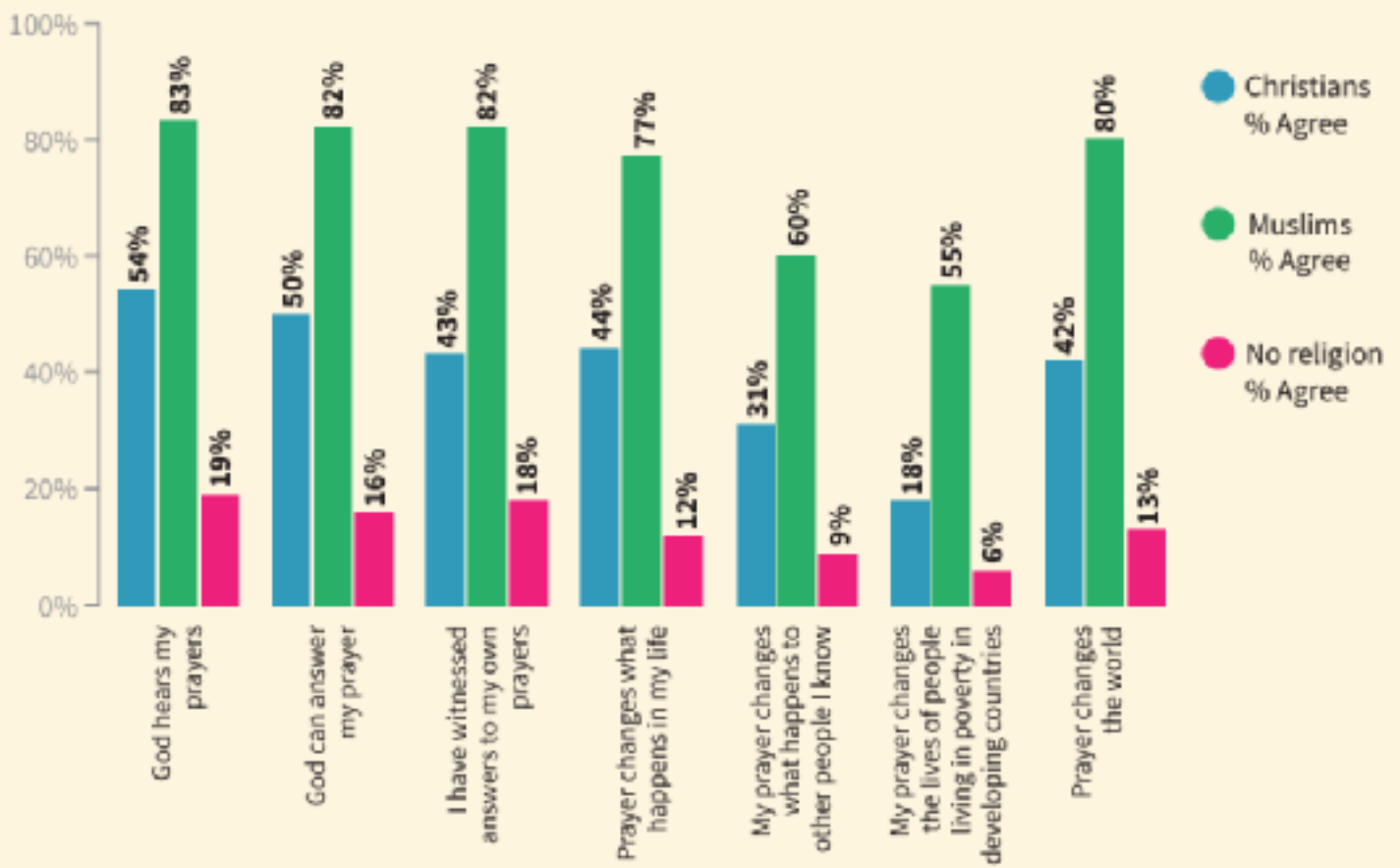


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Read these statements about prayer and indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each one



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- Prayer works, in the sense that it can bring about change for the people or situation you are praying for
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- Prayer doesn't work in any way



**A. Does prayer bring peace?**

Just over half of the people surveyed, 51 per cent, said that they think prayer can bring people a sense of peace.



**C. What did people believe about prayer having the power to heal people?**

Overall, 38 per cent of people believed to some extent that prayer can heal people.



**B. Can prayer change things?**

Only 17 per cent of people said that they believe prayer can actually bring about change for people who are being prayed for. This equals the 17 per cent of people who believe that prayer does not work at all.



**D. Does prayer do anything at all?**

36 per cent of nones<sup>10</sup> said that prayer does not work at all – not even to give people peace of mind.

Did any religious people express this view? Yes!

6 per cent of Hindus and Christians and 8 per cent of other worldviews say prayer does not work at all.

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# Big ideas about prayer

Your reaction: Number and comments.  
1-6 1=Agree strongly / agree / agree a bit / disagree a bit / disagree / 6=disagree strongly

“Prayer is a waste of breath. It is pointless.”

“I don’t pray much myself, but if other people feel the benefit, then why worry? If it works for you, then good luck.”

“The best way to find out if prayer works: try it for a month. Pray daily and unselfishly for something good. Did it happen?”

“God is good, and hears all our prayers. Wisely, God sometimes gives us what we pray for and sometimes not.”

“Prayer is a puzzle and a mystery. Sometimes it seems to work, sometimes it falls flat. God knows why (literally)”

“I think the biggest difference prayer makes is to me – helping me accept life as it is, be calm, have trust and live with love.”

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