

# CIRCLE TIME: YEAR: FOUNDATION STAGE

## Virtue 3 (Autumn 2): Prayer

I grow in friendship with God through prayer

### Knowledge:

To know that my school is a place of prayer and that there are different kinds of prayer.

### Skills:

Praying requires a range of skills and I can pray with my body and special objects, by listening, speaking and resting.

### Attitudes:

When I pray it helps me think of God, other people and it gives me hope.

### Circle Time Rules:

We listen to each other.

We do not say or do anything that would hurt another person.

We signal when we want to say something.

We may say pass.

If a game involves touch we may sit and watch before making a decision to join in.

### Skills - Thinking, Looking, Listening, Speaking, Concentrating

Throughout Circle Time it is vital that teachers praise children for using the above skills.

### Step 1. Game

Find the Kinds of Prayer

Puppet is watching the game.

The children are given a card – blank on one side. The children do not look at the word/symbol on the card until the game starts. On the words “ready, steady go” the children move about the space to find others with the same word/symbol card until they are in four groups – all sit together in a circle. You could extend the game by asking the children to say something to someone with the same word/symbol card, e.g. “thank you for ...” “well done ...” “Please can I ...”, “I’m sorry for ...” The four words/symbols are “thank you” (symbol – thank you emoji) “praise” (symbol – praise emoji), “asking” (symbol – asking emoji), “sorry” (symbol – sorry emoji).

### Step 2. Round

The kinds of prayer cards are placed in front of the children face up on the floor.

Puppet has enjoyed playing the game and goes round the circle, looking at the children and their cards, points out some of the words and names of the children, e.g., Poppy, Scarlet and Bede – have the “thank you” card. Peter, Imran and Mia have the “praise” card etc.

**Trigger statement:**

(Dear) God thank you for ....

God you are wonderful because ...

God please can you help ...

God I am sorry ...

**Step 3. Open Forum**

Puppet: "I'm a bit puzzled ... I don't know how to pray, I don't know what to do, can you help me? Teacher asks the children to respond.

Puppet is so pleased they want to ask for more help and shows the children a tray with some things to help them pray: on the tray is a song book/A4 sheet of music, holding cross, a card with the word listen with emoji symbol

Teacher asks the children to say why they help us pray?

Teacher asks the children "what other things can help us pray?" Children respond.

**Step 4. Celebration**

Gather the children around. Create a quiet, reflective atmosphere and play some quiet music. Light a candle. Ask them to breathe in and out. Next, ask the children to imagine a beautiful garden in their minds. Really paint a picture for them, mentioning smells, sounds, textures, light, temperature etc. Imagine they meet Jesus in the garden. Walk with Jesus and I wonder if you just want to hold his hand or do you want to say thank you to him, or ask him something, or say sorry for something? Remind them that this is a special place that they can visit again and again. Finally, using a triangle/bell softly beat/ring three times, telling the children that on the third beat/ring they will return to the classroom.

Teacher reminds children how good it is to relax and be still at certain times of the day. It is good to pray with each other.

**Step 5. Ending Ritual**

Sing chorus to "Oh, oh, oh how good is the Lord"

**Resources:**

Sets of 4 Cards with kinds of prayer and emojis

Puppet

Prayer objects

Song book / A4 music sheet / CD

Card with word "Listen" and a listen emoji