

CIRCLE TIME: YEARS: 5/6

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 and different ways of praying.

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

The teacher has a cloth bag or a nicely decorated box in which s/he has put different objects or artefacts that the teacher associates with prayer. It will contain the usual things that you find on a prayer space or in a liturgy box but can contain other creative things and things personal to the teacher. Once all the objects are placed together in a space – on a tray or a cloth – ask pupils to look carefully at the objects for ten seconds and then the teacher covers them with a cloth. Ask the children to make a list (on paper) of all the objects they can remember (either individually or pairs).

Step 2. Round

The teacher uncovers the objects and either asks the children what idea links all these objects together or tells the children all the chosen objects have something to do with prayer. The teacher then asks the children

'What links each object to prayer?' and 'How does this object help us to pray?'

Trigger statement:

What helps me to pray is ...

Step 3 Open Forum

Our virtue to live by statement is 'I grow in friendship with God through prayer'. The Church says that prayer is "*turning the heart and mind to God*". In trios, first ask the children to discuss the meaning of this statement and then how what they describe can help them grow in friendship with God. Trios feedback their ideas. The teacher scribes their ideas down – their responses can be displayed on or near the prayer space or table later.

Step 4. Celebration

Use a guided meditation with reflective instrumental music that focuses on being in the presence of Jesus. There is one you could adapt at Ave Maria Press <https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/guided-meditation-jesus-calms-sea>

Step 5: Ending Ritual

Let's think of the different types of prayer, the Church tells us there are 5 types of prayer. Can you name them? (**Petition** – *asking* something for yourself; **Intercession** – *asking* for someone else; **Thanksgiving; Praise; Blessing/Adoration** – recognising God and I'm not God.

Quietly gather: The teacher says 'Let us pray' and invites the children to say what type of prayer they want to say and to say it 'I ask that ... I thank God for ... I praise God because ...

Resources

Prayer artefacts / objects both recognisable and personal

A guided meditation where Jesus is present – best using a bible story

You Cat see section on prayer