

Ways of Connecting: A Prayer Sorting Activity

Learning objective: To understand that prayer can take many forms, including thankfulness, asking for help, and reflection, and to identify how different expressions of faith convey these meanings.

Max the monkey is looking at different ways people connect with their beliefs. Look at the list of 'Prayer Intentions' below. Sort each intention into one of the three categories: 'Thanksgiving' (being grateful), 'Petition' (asking for help or guidance), or 'Reflection' (quiet thought and meditation). Write the number of the intention under the correct column heading.

Word bank: Thanksgiving · Petition · Reflection · Gratitude · Guidance · Stillness · Appreciation · Request · Peace

1. 'Thank you for the warm sunshine and the harvest today.' **2. 'Please help me to be brave when I am feeling worried.'** **3. 'I am sitting in silence, thinking about how to be a kinder friend.'** **4. 'I am grateful for my family and the home I live in.'** **5. 'Please guide me to make the right choice in this difficult situation.'** **6. 'I am focusing on my breathing to find calm in a busy world.'** (6 marks)

2. Explain why a person might choose to pray in silence rather than speaking out loud. How might the experience be different? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a prayer of 'Petition' with a prayer of 'Thanksgiving'. How do the intentions differ? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Is it possible for one prayer to contain both 'Thanksgiving' and 'Petition'? Give an example. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if someone only ever used 'Petition' prayers and never used 'Thanksgiving' or 'Reflection'? (2 marks)

6. Imagine you are writing a prayer for your local community. Which category would it fit into and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a quiet, peaceful space where someone might go to pray or reflect. Include symbols that represent peace, such as a dove, a candle, or a garden scene, as suggested by Zara the zebra.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem, in the style of Leo the lion, that combines all three types of prayer (Thanksgiving, Petition, and Reflection) into one meaningful verse.