Year 4 Religious Education: Understanding Prayer

Learning objective: To explore the meaning, significance, and different ways in which people of various faiths use prayer in their daily lives.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of religious practices to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and thoughtful.

Prayer is a practice observed in many religions. For some, it is a quiet moment of personal reflection or a way to show gratitude. For others, it is a formal ritual performed at specific times of the day, often involving set words or movements. Prayer can be done alone or as part of a collective group. It often serves as a way for individuals to connect with the divine, seek guidance, or find inner peace.

Word bank: Meditation · Gratitude · Petition · Ritual · Reflection · Community · Sacred · Devotion

1. Define the word 'prayer' in your own words. Why might someone choose to pray? (2 marks)

2. Identify two different physical postures or actions people might use when praying and explain why these might be important to them. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast 'private prayer' (done alone) and 'public prayer' (done in a community). What are the potential benefits of each? (4 marks)

4. Explain why many people include 'gratitude' or 'thanksgiving' as part of their prayers. How might this change a person's perspective on their day? (3 marks)

5. Justify this statement: 'Prayer is only useful for people who are religious.' Do you agree or disagree? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Imagine a person is writing a prayer for their community. Write a short prayer (50-80 words) focusing on themes of hope and kindness. Then, explain why you chose those specific themes. (5 marks)

7. What might happen if a religious community stopped using prayer as part of their tradition? Describe the potential impact on their sense of identity. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a peaceful space where someone might go to pray or reflect. Include symbols or objects that help create a calm atmosphere.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Research a specific religion’s prayer ritual (e.g., Salah in Islam, the Shema in Judaism, or the Lord's Prayer in Christianity). Create a comparison chart showing the differences in timing, language, and purpose.