

Understanding Prayer: Perspectives and Purposes

Learning objective: To understand that prayer can take many forms and serves different purposes for believers, such as thanksgiving, confession, supplication, and adoration.

Max the monkey has been observing how different people express their thoughts through prayer. He has collected a list of 'Types of Prayer' and 'Real-Life Examples'. Your task is to match each type of prayer with the correct scenario that explains what the person is doing. Write the correct letter from the examples list next to the prayer type.

Word bank: Adoration · Confession · Supplication · Thanksgiving · Intercession

1. Types of Prayer:

1. Adoration: _____
2. Confession: _____
3. Supplication: _____
4. Thanksgiving: _____
5. Intercession: _____

Examples:

- A) A student asks for help and strength to overcome a difficult challenge.
 - B) Someone expresses deep awe and wonder at the beauty of the natural world.
 - C) A person admits to a friend that they were unkind and says they are sorry.
 - D) A child says 'thank you' for the warm meal they have just eaten.
 - E) A group prays for the health and safety of people living in countries experiencing floods.
- (5 marks)

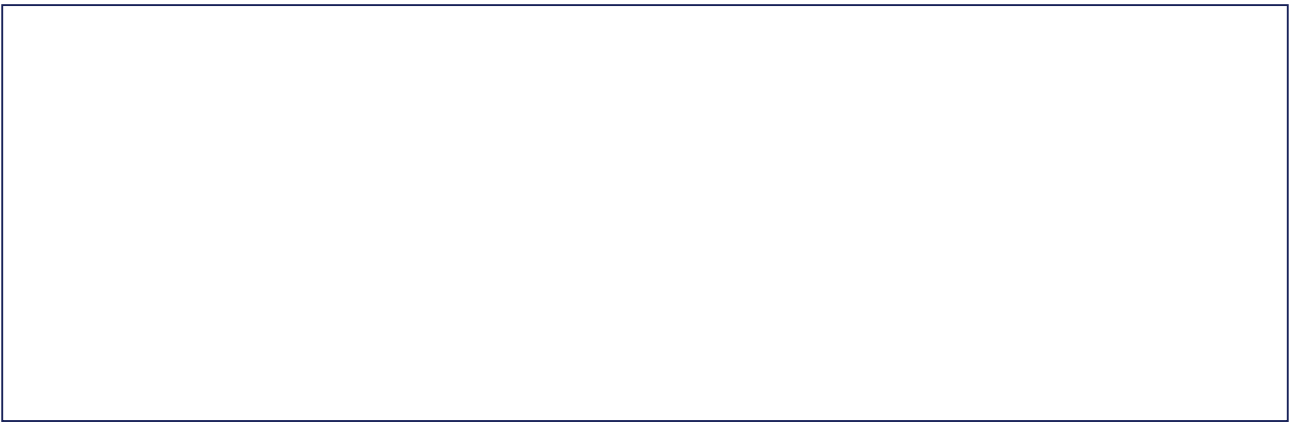
2. Max thinks math is about balance. Explain why someone might choose to pray in silence rather than out loud in a group. Consider the difference in the 'purpose' of the prayer. (3 marks)

3. If you were writing a prayer of 'Thanksgiving' for your community, what are two specific things you would include and why? (2 marks)

4. True or False: Prayer always has to be spoken out loud to be considered meaningful. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

5. Why might a person choose to use a 'prayer mat', 'prayer beads', or a 'shrine'? How do these physical objects help the person focus? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a peaceful, quiet place where someone might go to pray or reflect. Include symbols of nature, such as a tree or a flowing stream, to represent the calm atmosphere.



Extension challenge: Research how different religions use specific objects to aid prayer (e.g., Mala beads in Buddhism or Hinduism, or the Tasbeih in Islam). Create a small 'fact file' explaining how these objects help the user focus their thoughts.