



Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR

Matthew 6: 9-14 – The Lord's Prayer

Theme: This is how we pray

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Welcome to our new monthly theme all about praying. We shall be exploring this theme by looking at well-known prayers and seeing what links them together whilst also looking at different ways in which we can pray and offering the opportunity to experience some of these.

We start with what is probably the most famous prayer of all: The Lord's Prayer. The words were given as an example by Jesus to his followers – a template to follow, or a framework. It doesn't matter if we don't use the exact words (indeed many churches use different versions: forgive us our trespasses/sins/debts.) What is important is that we make connections with the themes Jesus mentions – praising God, admitting our own faults, thanking God for what God has done for us and trying to be better ourselves, and also asking God for help.

Because The Lord's Prayer is so well known to us we sometimes don't think about the actual meaning of the words – are they all literal? Do we really want God to give us bread every day? What else might that sentence mean? This theme is likely to stimulate a lot of discussion, so be prepared!

Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

Active and alternative game

See this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

Experience

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

Research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Watch: Bible project – lord's prayer

This is an hour-long podcast which delves into The Lord's Prayer but there are sections which have a title and timing so makes it easy to select the section you feel might be most helpful.

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/why-did-jesus-give-us-prayer-lords-prayer-pt-1/>

Questions for discussion

- Why might it be beneficial to look at the reasons behind The Lord's Prayer being created?
- What has made this prayer so special it is still be said today more than 200 years after Jesus was born?

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Alternatively:

There are many versions of The Lord's Prayer, as written word, images or in songs. How many can you find?

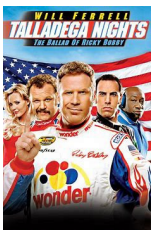
Get each young person to select a different version. Ask them to read/listen to it, then compare the differences between the different versions. What do they like or dislike about the version they have or those being looked at by others?

With the information they have now gained. Ask them either as individuals or in small groups to write their own version of The Lord's Prayer.

Finally ask, has this activity changed the way they think about The Lord's Prayer?

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.



Talladega Nights Movie clip- Dear Lord Baby Jesus

https://youtu.be/i1Nh_3JCFj8?si=ewPPPEJKT8n3ar7V

- I wonder what kind of Jesus you think of when you pray?
- Did the video clip change your thoughts of 'Jesus'?
- Do we pray and refer to Jesus in different ways for different prayers.

Talking together: Going deeper

- Can we pray to anybody other than God?
- Are prayers always answered?
- I wonder how and when you pray? (leaders to be prepared to answer this too)

Conversation starters

- I wonder if any translations of The Lord's Prayer have lost their meaning?
- I wonder why we added the extra bit of The Lord's Prayer?
- I wonder what daily bread means?

Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

Praying together

Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity

below. Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Church House have produced two sets of prayer prompt cards, one set for 4 to 8 years and another for 8 to 12 years. These bright and engaging cards help nurture a life of prayer. You can request a pack by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or find them as digital downloads on the URC website: bit.ly/Child-prayer-cards



Recite the Lord's Prayer together using your chosen version or else use this Makaton version

Recite The Lord's Prayer together using your chosen version or the version written in the explore section. Alternatively use this Makaton version together.

The Lord's Prayer using Makaton - <https://youtu.be/-INhwR-YEI4?si=t3ggzDI7lvjHcXKe>

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the "conversation starter" questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **I wonder when you learnt The Lord's Prayer for the first time?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT, Resources (jpit.uk) *Commitment for Life* cforl.co.uk
- Challenge yourself to memorise a version of the Lord's Prayer which you like and say it each day for a week.

Thank you for exploring the **Matthew** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT_FB