Y3 Autumn: Prayer
Enquiry: What is prayer and why do people pray?

Rationale	Building on earlier learning about religious beliefs, special places and symbols, this unit develops pupils' understanding of how faith is expressed through prayer. Following Year 3's study of religious symbols, pupils move from recognising visible expressions of belief to exploring the reasons behind religious practices. Through Christianity, Islam and Judaism, pupils learn that prayer takes different forms and reflects beliefs about God. This provides foundational knowledge for subsequent studies of Islam and the increasingly detailed exploration of religious beliefs, worship and lived faith across Key Stage 2.			
Lessons	1. What is prayer and why do people pray?	2. How do Christians pray?	3. How do Muslims pray?	4. Why is prayer important to different people?
Key vocab	prayer · worship · gratitude	Christianity · Lord's Prayer · forgiveness	Islam · salah · wudu	Judaism · Shema · reflection · compare
Key concepts	**Belief and practice:** Prayer expresses religious beliefs through words, actions and routines. **Sources of wisdom:** Sacred texts help explain why prayer is important within particular traditions. **Community and belonging:** Prayer can be private or shared and can shape daily life. **Reflection and comparison:** Prayer differs between and within religions; quiet reflection need not involve belief in God.			

	Core knowledge	Hinterland knowledge
Lesson 1	• Many religious believers pray to communicate with or worship God; people may give thanks, ask for help or seek guidance. • Prayer may be spoken, silent, individual or shared; it can happen in different places. • Different religions and believers do not all pray in the same way.	• Compare photographs of prayer at home, outdoors and in places of worship; avoid inferring beliefs from appearance alone. • Examples of thanksgiving, praise, asking for help and seeking forgiveness show different purposes. • Distinguish prayer from quiet thinking without implying that all people pray.
Lesson 2	• Christians may pray alone or together, in church, at home or elsewhere. • Jesus taught his followers the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13). It includes praise, asking for daily needs and forgiveness. • Some Christians use set prayers; others use their own words.	• Read a short, carefully selected extract from Matthew 6:9–13, e.g. "Give us today our daily bread", and explain its meaning rather than treating it only literally. • Jesus teaches about private prayer in Matthew 6:5–6; the Lord's Prayer also appears in Luke 11:2–4 in a different form. • Christian traditions and individuals differ in posture, language and frequency.
Lesson 3	• Muslims worship Allah (the Arabic word for God). Salah is the prescribed ritual prayer performed five times daily. • Muslims prepare for salah through wudu (ritual washing) and face the direction of the Kaaba in Makkah. • Salah is a regular act of worship and remembrance of Allah; Muslims may also make personal supplications (du'a).	• Qur'an 20:14 connects establishing prayer with remembering God; introduce as a short translated extract, not a claim that all translations use identical wording. • The adhan calls Muslims to prayer; prayer may take place in a mosque or another clean place. • Use respectful photographs or testimony to show the sequence of movements and recitation, without asking pupils to enact worship.
Lesson 4	• Christians and Muslims pray in ways that are sometimes similar but also importantly different. • Jewish people may recite the Shema, affirming belief in one God (Deuteronomy 6:4–9). • People who do not pray may still value quiet reflection; reflection and prayer are not identical.	• The Shema is a central Jewish declaration of faith, commonly recited morning and evening. • Humanist or other non-religious reflection may involve gratitude, attention or thinking about choices without addressing a deity. End with an evidence-based response to the enquiry.