



Collective Worship 15 Praying and The Lord's Prayer

All the Collective Worship emails so far can be found on our website
http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what_we_do/education/school_staff/teachers/collective_worship/

The Worship – Major themes ‘UP’

This Prayer Worship can be found on the Culham Website following this link below.

http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/assemblies/033p_praying.php

Music on Entry

Millennium Prayer by Cliff Richard

Preparation

Find an image of Durer's Praying Hands

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Praying_Hands_-_Albrecht_Durer.png

Use the image at the back of this worship with the Five Finger Prayer Hand.

Start the worship with a Christian Greeting

e.g. Lighting a Candle and saying "The Lord be with you." "*And also with you.*"



Using power point or a large piece of paper, draw a large hand clearly showing the thumb and fingers:

- on the little finger write 'me'
- on the fourth finger write 'those in need'
- on the middle finger write 'leaders'
- on the first finger write 'helpers'
- and on the thumb write 'those closest to us'.
- Place a Bible on the focus table, with a bookmark in place for the reading (Luke 11:2-4).

Introduce the theme, drawing attention to the focus for the act of worship - the poster/picture of Durer's painting.

Pose some questions and encourage children to wonder about the image:

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- How could the hands in the picture change the world?
- Is saying a prayer an action? (We often think of making changes by 'doing something'. Prayers *may* be perceived as inactivity.)
- How might saying prayers help others?

Introduce the idea that, for people of faith, saying prayers and talking and listening to God are very important ways of trying to help themselves and others. Hands are often used as a symbol of prayer and for many Christians putting hands together, like they are in Durer's picture, has become a traditional way of preparing to say prayers.

Show the diagram of a 'prayer hand'.

Introduce the prayer hand with words something like this:

Christians use all kinds of ways to help them say prayers. This 'prayer hand' is a sort of memory jogger showing who we might remember in a prayer.

THE THUMB is the digit nearest to us and so it reminds us to think about those people closest to us.

THE FIRST FINGER is a strong finger and reminds us of those people who have to be strong for us, and who help us, like teachers, nurses and doctors.

THE MIDDLE FINGER is the tallest and reminds us of those people who lead us and guide us.

THE FOURTH FINGER, often called the ring finger, reminds us of the people who need our love and our prayers.

THE LITTLE FINGER is to remind us that we also need to pray for ourselves.

PRAYER:

Invite the children to offer their own prayers using the prayer hand. Use the picture of praying hands as the focus for introducing this short meditation. The leader can give examples for each of the prayers, related to your own community, as appropriate.

Light a candle and ask the children, in silence, to look first at the picture, then to focus on one of their own hands. The leader should demonstrate this and say the following:

Holding your thumb, remember the people closest to you.

[Silence]

Holding your first finger remember those people who help us.

[Silence]

Holding your biggest finger, remember those people who lead us.

[Silence]

Holding your ring finger, remember those people who need our love and prayers.

[Silence]

Holding your little finger, remember to pray for yourself.

READING

When Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, this was his response:

'He said to them, "When you pray, say:
 Father, hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come.
 Give us each day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to a time of trial."

Luke 11:2-4 (NRSV)

This is a version developed by children in a primary school

Our Father in heaven, you are awesome!
Show us who you are and how you want us to be.
Make earth more like heaven.
Please give us what we need to keep going each day.
Help us when we are wrong and clean us up on the inside.
Help us to let other people off and move on.
Keep us from bad stuff.
You're in charge!
You're strong and powerful and always there.
Forever!

Amen.

There may be singing

A version of "Our Father" would be good if your school has one.

Further Development

Children could make their own 'prayer hands' on stiff card and labelling the fingers. They could use the same ideas as those in the act of worship or they could design their own labels.

Leaving the hall

A few final thoughts to take away:

Remember the prayer Jesus gave to His followers.

Try to use one of the lines from the prayer today in school.

I wonder which line you might have chosen?

"The Lord be with you." *"And also with you."*

Optional evaluation using '4' questions with a small group of children.

1. Tell me one thing you liked about the Collective Worship you have just been in?
 - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
2. Tell me one thing that would have made it better for you?
 - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
3. Tell me what it was about?
 - a. This is about factual recall.
4. Tell me why did the person leading the worship do what they did? (How you phrase this depends on the age of the pupils)
 - a. So what was the point?
 - b. What do you take away?
 - c. What do we learn about how we live our lives?

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