

The Prayer Series – The Way UK

Aims of session: to explore and understand why we pray and how to pray for our friends.

Game – Bingo

Read out all 15 snippets of The Lord's Prayer below. Get youth to write 10 of these down on paper or on their phone. Then read out all 15 at random. First youth to strike off 10 on their page wins!

1. Our Father
2. Hallowed be your name
3. Your kingdom come
4. Your will be done
5. On earth
6. In heaven
7. Forgive us
8. Sin against us
9. Temptation
10. Deliver us from Evil
11. Kingdom
12. The power
13. The Glory
14. For ever and ever
15. Amen

Introduction

- We are going to watch two videos. Both to help us think about prayer.
- What are some types of prayer? petition, thanksgiving, adoration, confession and intercession

What to expect...

- We will have four opportunities to pause and discuss.
- Get into groups of 2 or more.
- You will hear from a group of Christians from different denominations discussing their prayer lives and from people on the street being interviewed about prayer.

Story

Share a story of your first time praying:

For example, 'My earliest memory of a prayer to God was during the war in Iraq. It was a prayer of petition and intercession for God to keep people safe and the war to come to an end.'

Example in Scripture

In The Bible we read in **Matthew 26:36-46** Jesus is in a place called the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples before He is going to put to death on the cross. Jesus goes away to pray and we read a really honest, intimate and real moment where Jesus is saying to God I know I'm going to suffer. Jesus refers to His suffering as a cup.

Matthew 26:39 says **he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."** It's a bit like Jesus is saying I am scared but I trust your ways more than my own.

Watch Video 1

Do British Students Ever Pray?

Topic: *Why We Pray*

- Get comfortable and be listening for things you may want to bring up in discussion.

Pause Point 1 – 0:48

When do you like to pray? i.e. before an exam, at church, on the bus, before you go to sleep

Pause Point 2 – 4:45

Is there anything or anyone you pray for? Hold in your mind about Jesse's story of healing and Kane's story of coming to faith through his cousin praying for him.

Watch Video 2

Do British Students Want to be Prayed for?

Topic: *Praying for other people*

Pause Point 1 – 2:09

Do you relate to what Kane said about becoming discouraged when we are praying for our friends for a long time?

Pause Point 2 – 3:05

Did people respond positively or negatively about the thought of a friend or family member praying them?

How does their reaction make you feel about praying for your friends or family?

Story

Share about you praying for a friend to come to church:

For example, 'I prayed that my best friend would grow in curiosity about the Christian faith and church and want to come and hear the gospel. She came to church and there was a word of knowledge that she related to it. She was so touched and experienced God's spirit through that word of knowledge.'

Scripture

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Prayer

God, help us to remember that we can care for the people we have in our lives through lifting them up in prayer. We choose to trust you like Jesus trusted you in the garden before He went to the cross. God when we speak to you, you listen and we thank you for the closeness we have with you through prayer. We ask that our friends who do not know you yet would know that same closeness. We ask our friends we accept you as their friend, father and saviour.