

Faith at Home for families

Activity 5



Jesus Prays for His Disciples (Followers)



Hello from St Mary's Church!

We are excited to be with you again, especially as this week's story is all about prayer!

Over the last few weeks we have been busy making our Prayer Treasure Boxes and filling them with things that help us pray to God.

(The Prayer Treasure Box is Activity 1 on the websites of St Mary's Church and Bottesford School)

This week – Jesus praying

Let's think about all the things in our Prayer Treasure Boxes so far.

- First, we said 'thank you' to God for creation, and you might have a pine cone, or a leaf, or a picture you drew in your box.
- Next, we thanked God for sending Jesus our Shepherd, and maybe you put in a cotton wool ball, or a toy sheep.
- We have learned that Jesus shows us 'The Way' in our lives. Did you put a compass or a map or footprints in your box?
- Last week we found out about the Holy Spirit. Remember the fan that made the streamers dance?

I wonder if you have used your Prayer Treasure Box yet, either on your own or with your family?

The story today is about Jesus saying his prayers. He is outside, looking up to heaven and he prays for his disciples, his friends, as well as for himself.



If you'd like to read the story you can find it in John's gospel, chapter 17 verses 1-11. However, it's a bit of a tricky story to understand, so you might like to read the simplified version at the bottom of this sheet.

Have a guess!

Before we explore more about prayer, I wonder if you know what these things have in common:

- A letter
- A mobile phone
- A computer
- A walkie-talkie

Have you guessed? They are all things we use to talk to each other!

How have you been keeping in touch with family and friends you can't visit during Lockdown?

I can't visit my parents or walk past their house when I go out for my exercise because they live almost a 100 miles away! Instead I use my computer to 'see' and talk to them on 'Zoom'! I do that so I can tell them what I have been doing.

Prayer is talking to God

Prayer is the way we can talk to God. We talk to him and pray to him to make our relationship with him stronger.

- Can you imagine having a best friend who you never speak to!
- We can also pray to say 'sorry' when we do wrong things,
- We can pray for other people or for places that might need God's help

Getting ready to pray

In our story, Jesus got ready to pray by looking up at heaven.



We can get ourselves ready to pray too. At school, were you asked to put your hands together and close your eyes? That's a way of 'getting ready' and helps us to concentrate on God.

Some people get ready by lighting a candle or holding a small cross in their hands.

We can use our Prayer Treasure Box to help us get ready to pray!

Sometimes we don't get ready to pray, but just start praying wherever we are. This is fine because you can pray and talk to God anytime you like because he's always listening!

Teaspoon prayers

Sometimes it helps if we have a structure to our prayers, like a pattern we can follow.

Here's one that I use. It's called the Teaspoon Prayer – what a funny name!

It's called that because the first letters of the words 'Thank you', 'Sorry' and 'Please' when they're put together, make the abbreviation of the word 'teaspoon', which is used in recipes as 'TSP'. Have you seen that in recipes?



'TSP' reminds us to thank God, say sorry to him and to ask him for things.

The Lord's Prayer

Maybe you use a prayer that you have learned off by heart, like The Lord's Prayer. This is a prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. Then they taught their friends and their friends taught their friends...until it arrived on our page here! Do you know it?

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

- I wonder how you will use your Prayer Treasure Box this week.
- I wonder what you will talk to God about.

Prayer Treasure Box - Idea 5

We thank God that when we pray to him, he is always listening.

Try to find something for your Prayer Treasure Box that's about prayer itself.

- Perhaps a teaspoon!
- Or perhaps a candle like a birthday cake candle or a tea-light...not lit of course!
- Or you could make your own candle from a cardboard tube decorated with paper



A Teaspoon Prayer you might like to say

Dear God,

Thank you for the people who look after us;

Thank you for the people who love us.

Thank you for doctors, nurses and other staff who are taking care of people in hospitals, care homes and at home.

I am sorry when I am selfish and unkind.

Thank you that when we say sorry you forgive us.

Please help me to be generous and to share my things.

Please be with all the people who are poorly with the virus and help them to get better soon. Amen.

Bible Reading

John chapter 17 verses 1-11 – Jesus prays for himself and for his disciples

Things to understand before we begin:

A disciple of Jesus = a follower of Jesus

At the beginning of this story Jesus refers to himself as 'your Son' instead of saying 'me' in the first three sentences, then he switches to 'I' and 'me'!

'to bring glory to your Son' = to show how great your Son Jesus is

'he may bring glory to you' = Jesus will show how great God is

'my followers will bring glory to me' = Jesus' followers will show how great Jesus is

After Jesus had finished speaking to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come for you to bring glory to your Son. Then your Son will bring glory to you. You gave your Son power over all people so that your Son could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. Eternal life means to know you, the only true God. Eternal life also means to know me, Jesus Christ, the one whom you sent. I have brought glory to you here on Earth by finishing the work you gave me do. Now, Father, please give me back the glory I had with you before the world was created."

Jesus continued to pray to God and said,

"You have given me some followers from this world. I have shown them what you are like. They were yours, but you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your message. They know that you gave me everything I have. I told my followers what you told me, and they accepted it. They know that I came from you. And they believe that you sent me.

I am praying for them. My followers belong to you, and I am praying for them. All that I have is yours, and all that you have is mine, and my followers will bring glory to me.

Holy Father, I am not staying in the world. I am coming to you, but my followers will still be in the world. Please keep them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me. Then they will be united with each other, just as you and I are one.