



The Lord's Prayer Project

Spring 2023 | William Law CE Primary School

The Intention

During the COVID lockdowns in our classrooms, we started sharing collective worship via Zoom. This enabled the school to stay together and continue to share key values during the pandemic where we couldn't gather in a whole school setting. As 'bubbles' continued, the Zoom based worship continued to change and develop, now sometimes including an activity. Once restrictions were lifted, we chose to continue with classroom worship once a week. This provided a valuable opportunity for teachers and classes to discuss the values, messages and themes of a Bible story delivered in Collective Worship in a smaller, less intimidating session.

As part of Classroom Worship in the Spring term, we wanted to look at depth into the Lord's Prayer. This is an integral part of our worship at school, with the children familiar with the prayer but only on a surface level. We wanted children to develop a proficient understanding of the prayer and its relevance both within the Christian beliefs and how it can be translated and relevant in 2023.

The Implementation

This project was designed for Key Stage 2 children, as I believed this was most appropriate to share a secure understanding of the prayer. When designing the project, I used the resources provided by the Diocese of Guildford as a base which I then adapted and changed for our children and classroom worship design. Over the course of the term, the children looked at each line of the Lord's Prayer and explored its meaning as well as took part in a creative activity to explore the prayer. This segmented approach allowed us to look in-depth at each part of the prayer and the children were able to explore both the vocabulary in depth as well as their own moral and spiritual development as they considered its relevance both with themselves and the beliefs of others.

Each activity was designed to be creative and involving which classroom worship lends itself to. The nature of the sessions means children will begin with a more open discussion with their peers and teacher around the Biblical elements of the prayer; before moving on to applying their understanding in a creative way. Some examples of this include drama and reenacting, drawing and designing and writing their own prayers and reflections.

The project began with the idea of the Lord's Prayer being universal and relevant around the world, no matter your culture or background. This allowed the children to gain an understanding of the importance of the prayer and that it is relevant to many places outside of our school. As the week's progressed, the prayer was then put under the microscope to investigate each segment.

Each session was then closed with a class prayer, lead by the teacher, and a hymn shared together to end the worship session.

The Impact

Following the project, as part of my role as Worship leader, I undertook both Pupil and Adult Voice to gauge the impact the project had had on our school community. One child described the prayer as now **'not just something we say, but something we now understand'** and they felt their understanding of the prayer had improved. Some of the younger children were able to comment on how the words had a deeper meaning, sharing that **'daily bread is more than just food but everything you need to survive and be the best you can be'**.

Some other highlights of the pupil voice include:

"It showed me that the Lord's Prayer is a prayer of advice. It allows Christians to live and carry on his message."

"The activities helped us to hear God's voice; it showed us how an ancient prayer can still be relevant in 2023,"

"Saying the prayer isn't forcing me to believe; but helped me to learn about Christian teachings and helped me to respect their beliefs"

When speaking with children, I was impressed by their profound responses to the project. The children shared with me a mature and respectful understanding of the prayer and its importance in Christian beliefs. Many of them knew the importance of prayer and now understood that this is the most important of prayers.

When discussing with staff the impact it has had on their children, the staff were impressed with the children's openness to discuss, often impressed by the responses the children delivered. This was most prevalent when considering 'Learning, Living and Loving together' and children were able to highlight where the Lord's Prayer is aligned with the key messages of our school.

"The children were able to link it back to our school values; which is a whole school focus this year"

An important aspect of the project that I wanted to ensure was that it had a relevance to our children in their day-to-day lives at school. Staff highlighted the importance of making the right choices when discussing 'lead me not into temptation' was very valuable in their classes.

"It helped children to reflect on their behaviours and choices and whether there is another option or guidance they could turn to if they wanted to"

The Legacy

Moving forward, I want to ensure that the project is remembered within school and has an ongoing legacy within school.

To ensure this, as part of classroom worship this term, the children are going to look back at what they learnt during the Spring term and reflect on what the Lord's Prayer means and what it means to them. This will encourage children to think back to what they learnt and also reflect on how their views may have changed or developed since we looked at the prayer.

Children will then write, draw and share their thoughts on an individual speech bubble. These will then be combined and displayed within school, for children to recall the importance of the Lord's Prayer within our ethos as a school.