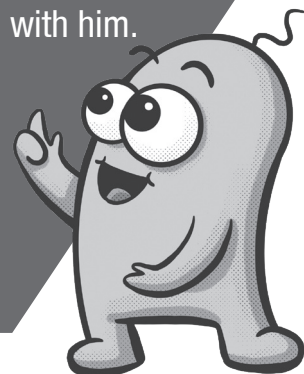


Spotlight on Prayer

Prayer is talking with God.

God is always with us, and always eager to listen to us as we share our lives with him. Prayer is:

- Relational - how our friendship with God grows and develops.
- Authentic - not summaries of the lesson.
- Contextual - consider your setting and your students.
- Active - we ask God to change us and the world.



Development Considerations



Explorers: Ages 4 - 6

Keep prayers short and simple. Use concrete language and focus on the present situation, needs and interests. Spend time modelling and contextualising prayer.



Adventurers: Ages 6-8

Provide prayer scaffolds and lots of encouragement as students grow in their confidence to pray and be open to student questions about prayer.



Navigators: Ages 8-10

Help students to know how to pray in different situations. Remind them that just as there are various types of prayer and God answers in different ways.



Voyagers: Ages 10-12

Teach students about Bible-based prayers and real-world experiences of people who pray. Explore how prayer is a way of expressing trust in God.

Remember

God made each of us unique. Each child's relationship with God will be unique.

Through prayer we respond to events in our lives and the world. This is empowering for children who may have limited power to affect change in their day to day lives.

See Also

- Modeled Prayers in Student Magazines
- Prayer Reflective Practice Page
- Prayer Training Video

Top Tips for Prayer

○ Cultivate Your Own Prayer Life

This will naturally flow into your teaching, and students will pick up on your passion and the authenticity of your relationship with God.

○ Regular Prayers

Having a regular time to pray, a set prayer or a choice of familiar prayers provides structure and consistency for those students who need it. It may also encourage students to feel confident to volunteer to lead or participate in praying.

○ 'In the Moment' Prayers

Show that prayer is relevant in all aspects of our lives. Be alert for comments or questions from the children that can be prayed about right now. Keep these prayers short and simple.

○ Respect Student Choice and Offer Variety

Teachers should be respectful of students' choices about engaging in prayer, whilst modelling and providing different opportunities to engage in prayer.