



July 25th week one (term three)

Ordinary Sunday 17 (Proper 12)

Note: this week is also Social Services Sunday, and St James and St John the Apostles day as well.

Aim: to look at what prayer is and some ways of doing it

Game: (for the older children) Giving thanks Prayer poem

What to do: Divide the children into two teams.

On the white board, write one of the children's names down the side as shown:

A
N
N
E
T
T
E

With each team taking turns, get the children to create a line for each letter of the person's name that 'gives thanks' for something about that person. Eg

An amazing singer
Nice person to talk to

N
E
T
T
E

Repeat for each person if you have time. Or make it a feature of the beginning of the lesson for the rest of term.

Game: (for the younger children) Jigsaw prayer hunt

Preparation: On a large piece of card write the Lord's prayer. Cut it up into about sixteen pieces. In the room that you do children's ministry, put bluetack on the back of each puzzle piece and hide them around the room.

What to do: Tell the children that there are sixteen puzzle pieces hidden around the room. Get them to find the pieces and put the puzzle together.

Story: Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)

One day, Jesus was praying with his disciples.

When he had finished, the disciples pleaded with him and said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his followers to pray.'

So Jesus taught them this prayer:

'Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our sins.
As we forgive those who have sinned against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the Glory be yours,
Now and forever.
Amen.'

While the disciples were taking in what Jesus had said, he continued, saying:
 'Suppose you go to a friend's place in the middle of the night and ask to borrow some bread because someone had dropped into see you and you had no food for them. And suppose that friend tells you to go away because it's the middle of the night and they were sleeping.
 Well, the friend may not give you bread just because you are a friend, but they will give you what you need if you just keep on asking.
 So ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will open. Everyone who does this will receive.
 No one would give a snake to your child if they asked for a fish. So, just as you know how to give good gifts to your children, God is even more ready to give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks.

Talk: Well today's reading was all about one thing, do you remember what it was? (Pause for answers). That's right, Prayer.
 Can anyone tell me what they think prayer is? (Pause). Well I think of prayer as a conversation with Jesus or God. It's a chance for me to tell God about what I've been doing, all the things that have been really good and not so good. I can even ask God to help me or other people just as I would if I was talking to one of my friends.
 So, why should we pray do you think? (Pause) Well, how often do you see your friends? Do you talk to them much? I know I do. And for my good friends, I like spending lots of time with them.
 Well Jesus is our friend and he likes talking to us and listening to us just as any of our other friends do, and that is why we pray.
 What are some ways that we can pray? (Pause). Well, we can talk out loud to Jesus, or write him a letter, or sing him a song, draw a picture, even just think our prayers in our heads.
 Prayer is really exciting, don't you think?!!!

Questions: What is prayer?
 Why do we pray?
 Will my prayers be answered? (Yes, but not always in the way you expect or want. And remember, 'No' is an answer to prayer too!)

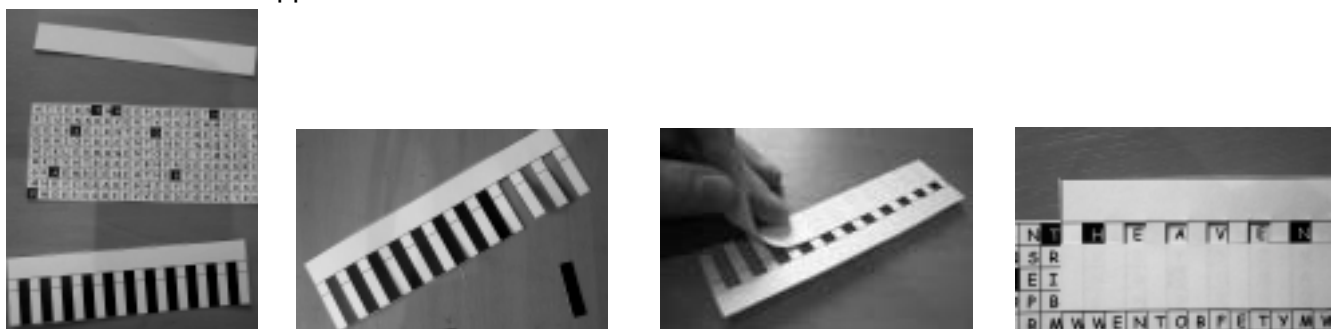
Activity: The Lord's Prayer in code

What you need: A copy of the prayer code, a template for the code breaker. felts/crayons and stuff, scissors, pens, glue/tape

What to do:
 Cut out the Code, codebreaker part one and part two.
 Cut out the back blocks from the codebreaker part one.
 Glue part two over part one as shown.

To solve the code, place the first open square of the codebreaker over the first letter of the mystery word that is highlighted as shown.

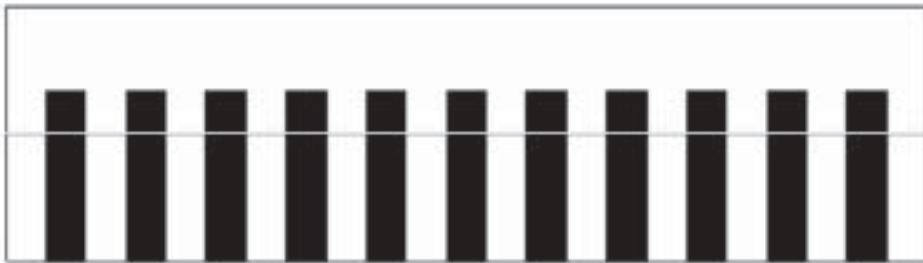
Note: some words appear more than once.



Code:

A	T	T	E	B	N	T	M	H	E	E	P	A	O	V	N	E	T	N	E	E	C	Z
P	I	U	R	N	S	R	R	V	E	R	T	Y	U	S	U	Z	M	M	Y	I	U	Z
E	E	R	G	K	E	I	R	N	T	G	Y	D	R	O	T	M	E	A	W	D	E	W
D	G	H	I	O	P	B	C	C	V	N	T	S	N	R	T	W	W	Q	S	F	E	R
H	J	K	L	E	R	M	W	W	E	N	T	O	B	F	E	T	Y	M	W	E	R	Z
M	K	I	Y	H	T	R	Z	X	C	V	B	N	F	R	D	E	S	G	R	D	R	E
G	R	A	E	M	R	E	E	N	E	W	T	N	E	B	T	R	E	E	T	A	T	D
M	N	B	V	C	X	Z	A	D	F	G	H	J	U	Y	T	R	F	D	E	R	S	E
F	M	O	G	R	D	G	R	I	E	V	V	E	B	D	F	G	H	J	Y	T	R	D

Codebreaker part one:



Codebreaker part two:



Our Father in H—, (across)
Hallowed be your n—. (down)
Your K— come, your will be d—, (across) (down)
On earth as it is in h—. (across)
Give us today our daily b— (across)
And f— us our sins. (across)
As we f— those who have sinned against us. (across)
Save us from the t— of trial (down)
And deliver us from evil.
For the K—, the power and the Glory be yours, (across)
Now and forever.
A—. (across)

Other activity ideas: You could write letters to God and post them in 'special' mailbox
You could make the 'prayer mobile'

Next week: Luke 12:13-21 A Rich Fool

My prayer mobile

1. Cut out the shapes
2. Write a prayer on each of them
3. Punch a hole at the top and the bottom of each shape
- \$. Tie them together and decorate

