

Year 3 – Why do people pray?

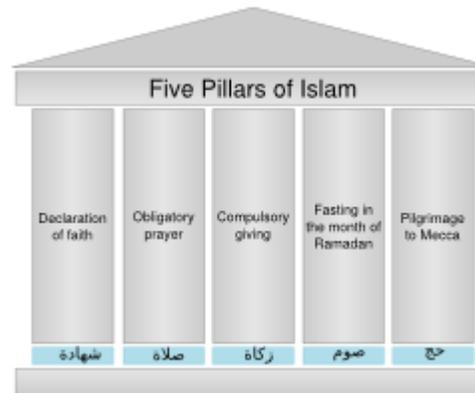


Key Vocabulary

The Lord's Prayer	A Christian prayer.
The First Surah	A Muslim prayer.
The Gayatri Mantra	A Hindu prayer.
prayer	A way of communicating with God.
symbol	When one object or thing stands in place of something else.
Preparation for prayer	The practices of Muslim prayer: being clean, and in a clean place, facing Makkah, preparing the mind, praying alone or with others, using set words. The body language of submission and equality is very important.
Pillar of Islam	The basic rules in Islam that all Muslims must follow.
intercession	Asking through prayer.
confession	Saying sorry through prayer.
Hindu shrine	A collection of objects that are important to a Hindu.
precious	Something that is valuable, either in money or emotionally.

Did you know?

In both Christianity and Islam, Sunday is a popular day for worship.



Key knowledge.

Christians talk to God through prayer: We see examples of children's prayers and how and when they pray. Children talk about asking for guidance, being grateful, asking for help and how praying can be like talking to a friend. We also see prayers in church. The Lord's Prayer, taught by Jesus to his friends, is the most popular Christian prayer. Used all over the world and in hundreds of languages, the prayer is well known.

Muslims are expected to pray 5 times a day. This is the pillar known as Salah. On Fridays, there is further requirement that they must pray their Zuhr prayers, after midday, in congregation with other Muslims. This is known as Jummah prayers. Praying on a Friday is important as it unifies the Muslim community.

In Hinduism, worshippers take off their shoes to worship. They usually begin with the sacred word 'Aum' then repeat prayers (mantras) and the name of their favourite gods or goddesses. Offerings such as fruit, incense, water and flowers are made. Puja is a daily routine for Hindus and is carried out at least once every day. Most Hindu homes have a holy shrine where puja takes place. Having a shrine at home means that families can worship together.