

Investigating Prayer

Question on Prayer

Some people pray many times a day, others not at all. What are your thoughts on the subject of prayer?

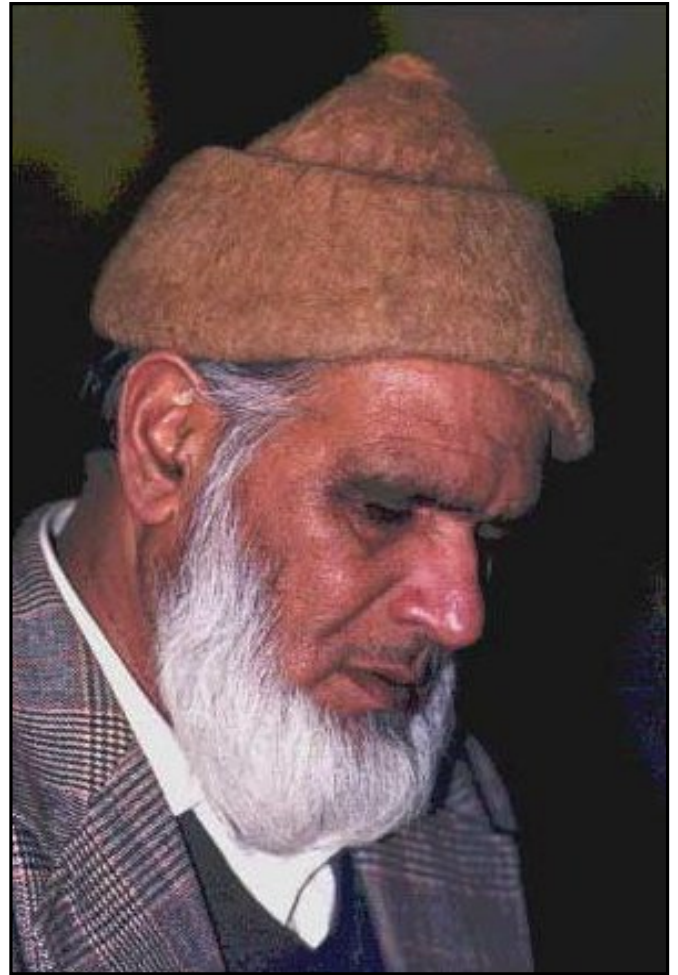
[RE Festival : Secondary]

Activity suggestions:

1. Use the statements on page 3 for a '**sorting and responding**' activity, and stimulus for **discussion**.
2. **Respond** to the image on the right. Find or **create** your own images of prayer / praying.
3. Conduct your own **survey** (see below)

Conducting your own survey

1. Ask pupils to **complete the survey** themselves, anonymously, and to add the answers of pupils in other groups if possible.
2. **Prepare a spreadsheet** to receive the results. This could be provided and by pupils. Microsoft Excel, PinPoint or are suitable for this task.
3. Pupils can all contribute to **entering the results** (PinPoint permits simultaneous entries) or a small group can do this on the group's behalf.
4. **Discuss likely outcomes** e.g. Will gender be significant? What percentage will say prayer is helpful? **Identify** the questions you will interrogate the data for. **Small groups** could each take an agreed dimension to produce the results for.
5. **Follow up** with discussion or debate.
6. **Display** conclusions beyond the lesson e.g. school magazine, department web site, wall display, collective worship.



O Allah,
I seek your guidance
through your knowledge and ability
through your power,
And beg of your infinite bounty;
for you have power and I have none,
You know and I know not,
And you are the knower of hidden things.

A **sunnah** of the prophet **Muhammad (pbuh)**, that is, a prayer which he used to say but which is not an obligatory part of the daily sequence of prayers.

**What do I agree or disagree
with about prayer?**

Age: _____ M/F: _____ Religious affiliation (if any) _____

		Strongly Agree					Strongly Disagree				
1	Praying is very important to me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	When I pray I feel closer to God.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	Praying is a complete waste of time.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	People who pray are stupid because there is no one there listening.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5	Praying helps you to be more calm and less stressed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	Praying makes the world a better place because God answers prayers.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	I don't think anyone should be allowed to pray.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	I think people who pray are selfish asking God for things for themselves.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comments about prayer from the RE Festival Questionnaire

If people want to pray then they should be able to. People should have free spirits.

Praying is extremely silly because most people laugh and there's not much point. It's a waste of time.

People pray when they want to and where they want to. It's their way of getting into contact with God.

I am supposed to pray five times a day but I don't. I know I should but I don't pray. I pray when it is the holy month of Ramadan.

I think praying is silly because no one is listening.

Prayer brings faith into action. It is a personal 'talk' to God. Prayer is the answer to any questions as long as you have faith.

If God existed she wouldn't be so vain as to want people to fall on their faces and worship her; she's want them to go and help people like the homeless etc.

I think when you pray it calms you down, and gives you someone to talk to. It takes all the stresses out of you.

If praying helps you then do it. It's not hurting anyone by praying.

I only pray occasionally but when I do it's usually because I want something.

It is a comfort to others and to you and is a short prayer that has power.

Praying is good because it helps you to make contact with God.

I think that praying is a very good thing to do if you have done something wrong or just want to speak to God. I pray every Sunday at 10.30.

I pray when someone's in trouble in my family. When Princess Diana died, I prayed but I don't pray for the sake of it.