

## Year 3 – Why do people pray?

**Religions and worldviews:** Hindus, Christians and Muslims

### Key Questions

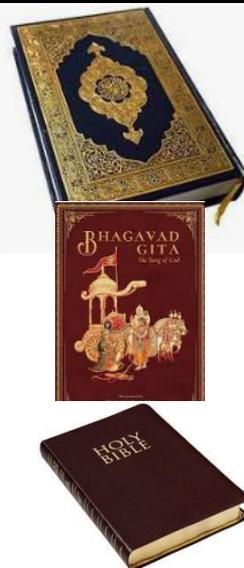
What is prayer? Is prayer helpful? How could we answer this question?  
 What happens in Islamic prayer? What does this show us about Muslim beliefs and ways of life?  
 How and why do Christians like to pray?  
 How do Hindus pray and worship at home and in the Mandir?  
 What is similar and different in the words of three prayers (Muslim, Christian, Hindu)  
 Reflection: What more can we discover? Does reflection matter to me?  
 Prayer and me: why do some people pray every day, but others not at all?  
 What have we learned from Muslims, Hindus + Christians about prayer, symbols and worship?

### By the end of the topic you will learn to:

- Describe the practice of prayer in the religions studied.
- Make connections between what people believe about prayer and what they do when they pray.
- Describe ways in which prayer can comfort and challenge believers.
- Describe and comment on similarities and differences between how Christians, Muslims and Hindus pray.

### Key facts

Practices of Muslim prayer: being clean, and in a clean place, facing Makkah, preparing the mind, praying alone or with others, using set words.  
 Subha beads are Muslim prayer beads.  
 Christians pray by lighting candles (votive candles), kneeling, open hands, incense (as a symbol of prayers rising to God), through music, through silence and meditation.  
 A Hindu shrine is a collection of objects that show what matters most to a Hindu and many Hindus will have a shrine in their own home.  
 Three types of prayer: Lord’s Prayer (Christian); The First Surah of the Holy Qur’an (Muslim); The Gayatri Mantra – a common Hindu morning prayer.



### Key Vocabulary

Church	A place of worship for Christians to attend.
Deity	A powerful spirit that controls events. A God or Goddess.
Faith	Strong belief or trust
Hindu temple	A Hindu temple or Mandir is a place of worship for Hindus.
Prayer	A request for help or an expression of thanks to God or another deity.
Worship	To regard with respect, honour and devotion.