**Prayer Devotions**

**Week 1: God isn’t a genie in a bottle!**

* **Watch**: Aladdin clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyDrGscZ9B0>
* **Discuss**: If this isn’t what prayer is, what could prayer be? Why do we pray?
* **Pray**: Pray that God would reveal to us more about prayer this term.

**Week 2: Prayer is just a conversation with God**

* **Discuss**: What are some different ways that we get to know our friends? (E.g. doing things together, chatting, texting, and social media.) What kinds of things do we chat with friends about?
* **Share**: We can tell God good things that have happened, bad things that have happened, things we’re worried about, things we’re thankful for etc.
* **Read**: Matthew 6:7-8
* **Pray**: Spend a few minutes praying to God about anything (in head or on whiteboard).

**Week 3: Different types of prayer (Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield)**

* **Watch**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrdlXOk_QdQ&list=PLnXWVXkTPjrqSx6em_VY4SkSCj4_xGxvA&index=7&t=0s>
* **Pray**: Students spend some time writing prayers on mini whiteboards using the P-R-A-Y model.

**Week 4-5: The Lord’s Prayer**

* **Read**: The Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Hand out copy to each student.
* **Discuss**: Which parts of the Lord’s prayer do you have questions about? Students to record their questions on their copy of the Lord’s prayer. Discuss these next week.
* **Explain:** Explain the different parts of the Lord’s prayer (e.g. praising God, asking for His will to be done, praying for his help in our lives, asking for forgiveness.
* **Listen & Write**: Students try writing their own version of the Lord’s prayer in ‘kid friendly’ language as they listen to Hillsong ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUjLd6k6uXk>

**Week 6: Why do we finish our prayers with, ‘In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.’?**

* Watch ‘The Veil’ video. Discuss how Jesus’ death on the cross opened up a way between us and God the Father. We don't deserve to be heard by God, but Jesus does.
* Use visual representation of Jesus opening a way between us and God.



**Week 7: Different ways to pray (Praying through the Psalms)**

* **Explain**: Explain that we can use the Psalms as prayers. We can read and reflect on them as though they are our own prayers to God. This can be helpful when we don’t know what to pray.
* **Read**: Read a range of different styles of psalms:
	+ **Psalm of lament/frustration**: Psalm 44:8-26
	+ **Psalm reminding us of God’s power**: Psalm 46:1-3
	+ **Psalm of praise**: Psalm 145:1-9 (could continue to the end of this psalm)
* **Write**: If time, students can try writing their own ‘psalms’ on their whiteboards.

**Week 8: Different ways to pray (Labyrinth prayers)**

* **Read**: Psalm 46:10 (‘Be still and know that I am God’)
* **Explain**: My testimony of hearing this verse when I was a teenager and struggling with faith. Discuss the importance of slowing down and being still in the busyness of life. Explain how labyrinths can be used as a tool to ‘be still’ and pray.
* **Introduce**: Introduce the concept of a ‘Teaspoon prayer’
	+ T = Thank you
	+ S = Sorry for
	+ P = Please
* **Pray**: Students pray (using the ‘teaspoon’ method) individually while completing a labyrinth. Play quiet music during this time (‘Be Still’ – The Fray)

**Week 9: Different ways to pray (Praying in nature)**

* **Explain**: Explain that being in nature helps people to connect to God. When we look at a beautiful sunrise or listen to a bird chirping, we can see and hear God’s craftsmanship.
* **Share**: Share something that you can see or hear that you are thankful for.
* **Read**: Psalm 8.
* **Reflect & Pray**: Give students a few minutes to sit in silent prayer/reflection in a spot of their own.

**Week 10: Different ways to pray (Christian meditation)**

* **Explain**: Meditation simply means to ‘focus your mind for a period of time’. Explain that today we will be trying a guided meditation and that students need to find a quiet, comfortable spot on their own.
* **Read**: Psalm 1:1-3
* **Guided Christian Meditation**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=826gdM79UzA>

**Week 10: Students design their own prayer stations for Term 4 based on what they have learnt about prayer.**

**Other ideas:**

**Why doesn’t God always answer our prayers as we would like?**

* **Read**: Matthew 26:36-46 (Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane)

**Different things to pray for:**

* We confess to God what we have done (38-39. 102-103.) – 1 John 1:9 or Psalm 32:5
	+ Placing stones in water as a symbol of handing over our concerns/fears/guilt to God
* We ask God for what we need (40-41. 100-101.)
* We tell God how we feel (43)
* We praise God for who he is (Psalm 103:1-5)
* We thank God for what he has done