

STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

To involve students' families in this unit, teachers can choose from the following:

- Students share work samples with their families.
- Invite parents to see presentations or displays developed by the students.
- Present the students' investigations in a school worship or assembly.
- Students produce their own class newsletter to share with their families, which includes samples of students' reflections, psalms, prayers, art, research, etc.
- Inform parents about the topic through a newsletter. The following provide examples related specifically to the model units.

LEVEL 1 NEWSLETTER

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life. Our Christian Studies unit aims to help students understand what prayer is about. They will learn that prayer is the way in which Christians talk to God. They will also hear Bible stories in which people talked to God in prayer.

A person who is in a relationship with God will want to tell God about things that are important in their life. Students will hear examples of things that people talk to God about and be given the opportunity to construct their own prayers.

Because prayer is an important part of the daily routine at our school, we plan to visit other classes to observe others at prayer. We will then discuss the times and ways people pray and words that are commonly used in prayers. At the end of the unit we will discuss ways of including prayer in our class worship times.

If you would like to be part of this, please feel free to join us in worship.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

People read different books for different reasons. One type of book that Christians may use is a prayer book.

In our Christian Studies unit students will be using prayer books to learn about prayer. They will consider when and why people might use a prayer book and hear different styles of prayers. We will be using one prayer book called *Prayers for Aussie Kids* to investigate things that people can pray about. Students will hear prayers about everyday things, prayers for times of trouble and prayers for other people. Students will be writing prayers of their own and these will be collated into a book.

Perhaps your child has been given a prayer book that they could bring to school to show the class. If possible I would like to keep these at school for some weeks for students to use.

If your child does not have a prayer book of their own and you are considering buying one, please feel free to look at the books we have collected or to discuss appropriate titles with me.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Students who attend our school will have observed people at prayer and participated in prayer themselves. To assess students' understanding of prayer we will begin our Christian Studies with the students illustrating what they know about prayer.

Students will then investigate prayer in the life of Jesus. Using the example of Jesus, students will learn that Jesus prayed with others, before meals and for other people. The Bible records that Jesus frequently prayed alone. Students will have the opportunity to spend a quiet time alone. They may use this time for prayer or just as time to be by themselves. Students will also learn the words of the Lord's Prayer, using songs and actions to help.

At the end of the unit your child will bring home a journal about prayer. Please take the time to look at this and talk about it together.