

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

Do you have a special place where you can go to escape the noise and activity of daily life, a place where you can be still? Jesus recognised the importance of finding a quiet place away from the noise of the crowd. The Bible also says that when Jesus was alone, he used this time to pray.

In our current Christian Studies unit *Jesus and Prayer*, the students will identify occasions when Jesus prayed and examine the reasons he prayed, eg before important decisions, to thank, to ask for help. They will also explore Jesus' teachings about prayer. The students will be involved in either observing or participating in a range of prayer experiences.

You can support your child by asking them to share with you their investigations about prayer and their prayer experiences.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

It's important to have someone to share our joys, disappointments, troubles and challenges with — someone to talk to or just to be with.

In our Christian Studies unit *Someone to Talk to*, the students will be exploring reasons why Christians pray to God. They will be identifying what people in the Bible prayed to God about and what people can pray to God about today. The students will also be exploring the Christian belief that God answers prayers in many ways, including through the message of the Bible and through the actions of people. We will be compiling our discoveries, psalms and prayers into a book entitled *Talking to God*, which we hope to share with you when the unit is completed.

You can support your child by talking to them about the discoveries they make about prayer.

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

How would you describe prayer? Is it something people do when nothing else has worked? Is it asking for things? Is it enjoying the company of a friend? Is it talking to someone who loves you?

In our current Christian Studies unit, *The Lord's Prayer*, the students will be exploring the meaning of Christian prayer. They will be examining prayer books to see what they teach about prayer. The students will be exploring the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, known as the Lord's Prayer, and the meaning of this prayer for people today. The students will be writing their own prayers or producing a visual or dramatic presentation based on the Lord's Prayer. We hope to share the students' prayers and presentations with you.

Please send to school any prayer books you may have at home which could be helpful in our investigations.