

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

In most emergencies of life people utter a prayer, seeking some form of help and rescue. Rene Rivkin, an Australian business person found himself beginning to bargain with God when faced with the reality of a brain tumour. However, he decided not to pray. If God were to answer him favourably by removing the threat to his life, then Rivkin would have to commit himself to a life devoted to the worship of God. He survived the operation, remains an atheist, but still carries worry beads to help him cope with the pressures of life.

In many ways Rivkin's understanding of prayer reflects the Christian belief that prayer is the natural outcome of the relationship between a loving God and his people. Christians believe that prayer is listening to God, responding to God's presence, meeting with God, being drawn into a relationship with God and enjoying that relationship with God. Prayer is an integral part of life, mirroring a person's struggles, successes, joys and sadness. Christians believe that Jesus has opened the way for all people to be connected to God.

In the unit *A relationship with Jesus* students will explore the nature of Christian prayer as it unfolds in the relationship between Peter and Jesus. Students will examine various 'snapshots' of the relationship recorded in the gospels and the book of Acts. Students will engage in several imaginative and creative activities which will broaden their understanding of prayer as an expression of a deepening relationship between God and those who place their trust in him. Each student will produce a collection of prayers entitled *Friendship with God*, with a preface which explains the choice of items in the collection and what these items demonstrate about the place of prayer in a person's relationship with God.

LEVEL 2 NEWSLETTER

Someone has said that prayer is a Christian's lifeline. That's a good image in many ways, for example prayer — like a lifeline — connects two things: one solid, the other possibly in danger, and like a lifeline, prayer doesn't do much good unless you hang on to it.

In the current Christian Studies unit students will be looking at *Prayer in Christian Life*. There are two main components of the unit. They will look at how people turn to prayer in time of need and the benefits received from this. They will also look closely at the Lord's Prayer, to help them become aware of its richness as well as its relevance for life. Secondly, students will experience the value of quiet time.

You may want to use this study as an opportunity to talk with your son or daughter about your own experiences of prayer.