

Should Children Learn The Lord's Prayer?

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His remarks follow a survey on the Lord's Prayer the BBC did to mark 40 years since the programme was first broadcast. *Newsround* surveyed over 1,000 children aged 6-12 and 1,000 adults who'd have been that age 40 years ago, and compared the answers. The survey found that children today are twice as likely to say that religion is important to them compared to 40 years ago – but they are now half as likely to know the text of the Lord's Prayer.

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The Archbishop of Canterbury's emphasis on Christian teaching in schools comes amid an ongoing debate among members of the clergy, many of whom believe that their faith is being sidelined in education. Last month the Church of England set out a plan to introduce 200 new faith schools across Britain. Church schools must argue their cause in a time where faith-based schooling is increasingly at risk.

Category: Religion / Church of England / Lord's Prayer
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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The Lord's Prayer Words

(traditional)

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever.

Amen.

(Taken from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, 1662).

EXERCISES

1. **The Lord's Prayer:** Do you know the Lord's Prayer? Go round the room seeing if your classmates know it.

2. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. **Should children learn the Lord's Prayer?** Discuss this together in class.

7. **Different faiths:** In pairs, think of four different faiths around the world. Then add five things about each of them. Write them below. Discuss together.

Faith 1 _____	Faith 3 _____
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____
Faith 2 _____	Faith 4 _____
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **The Lord's Prayer**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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9. **Let's roleplay 1: LBC London:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *LBC* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Should children learn the Lord's Prayer?* 10 minutes.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | A Church of England worshiper |
| 2 | The Archbishop of Canterbury |
| 3 | The Pope |
| 4 | A religious person from another faith |

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

10. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are in the BBC canteen in London. Start a conversation about '*Should children learn the Lord's Prayer?*' 5 minutes.

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Who is Rowan Williams?
- 2) Name the TV programme.
- 3) How many years has this TV programme been on the air?
- 4) How many new schools are planned?
- 5) How many children were surveyed?

Student B

- 1) What age were the children who were questioned?
- 2) Name the broadcaster.
- 3) Name the prayer.
- 4) Sum up what Dr Rowan Williams said.
- 5) What did the survey find?

12. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: '*The Lord's Prayer*'. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation.

13. **Religious pilgrimages:** In pairs think of four different religious pilgrimages people from different faiths might go on in their lives. Write them below. Discuss together.

- | | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| 1 | _____ | 3 | _____ |
| 2 | _____ | 4 | _____ |

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

14. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: *Should children learn the Lord's Prayer?* Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

a) The Lord's Prayer _____

b) The Archbishop of Canterbury _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Because of your religion has this been a difficult lesson for you?
- 3) Do you go to church? Explain.
- 4) Did you go to church when you were school age?
- 5) Were you forced to go to church as a youngster?
- 6) Why is religion important or is it?
- 7) What religion is practised mostly in your country? Why?
- 8) How would you answer this survey?
- 9) Is religion more important today than 40 years ago?
- 10) Are we seeing a multi-faith society today in your country?

Student B questions

- 1) Do you know the Lord's Prayer?
- 2) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?
- 3) What is the future for religion in your country?
- 4) Should religion be taught in schools?
- 5) Should children learn the Lord's Prayer?
- 6) Are you religious?
- 7) What is your religion?
- 8) Why do you practice this faith?
- 9) Is religion in your country dying?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Should children learn the Lord's Prayer?

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Should children learn the Lord's Prayer?
Do you know any other *famous / well known* prayers?

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Should Children Learn The Lord's Prayer?

(1)_____ in Britain the (2)_____ of Canterbury Rowan Williams said he believes that children should be taught the Lord's Prayer in school. Speaking to the BBC on its children's TV programme *Newsround* Dr Williams said he was worried by news that half as many children know the (3)_____ compared with 40 years ago. He said, "I'd like to see (4)_____ introducing children to the Lord's Prayer, so that they know it's there, they know what it means and why it matters and they then can make up their own minds (5)_____ about whether they wish to use it."

His remarks follow a survey on the Lord's Prayer the BBC did to mark 40 years since the programme was first broadcast. *Newsround* surveyed over 1,000 children aged 6-12 and 1,000 adults who'd have been that age 40 years ago, and compared the answers. The (6)_____ found that children today are twice as likely to say that (7)_____ is important to them compared to 40 years ago – but they are now half as likely to know the (8)_____ of the Lord's Prayer.

Dr Rowan Williams: "The Lord's Prayer isn't a very big or complicated thing." He added, "It's not as if you have to learn pages on end of things in a (1)_____ language. There are modern versions of it." He added, "I don't think it's too difficult to introduce children to this and introduce it in (2)_____ language and say not 'You've got to pray this,' but this is something that's really, really important to lots and lots of people and can change their lives."

The Archbishop of Canterbury's (3)_____ on Christian teaching in schools comes amid an (4)_____ debate among members of the clergy, many of whom believe that their faith is being (5)_____ in education. Last month the Church of England set out a plan to introduce 200 new (6)_____ schools across Britain. (7)_____ schools must argue their cause in a time where faith-based schooling is increasingly at (8)_____.

religion

text

later

schools

survey

recently

prayer

Archbishop

emphasis

faith

plain

risk

sidelined

strange

church

ongoing

GRAMMAR:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Should Children Learn The Lord's Prayer?

Recently in Britain the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said he believes that children (1)___ be taught the Lord's Prayer in school. Speaking to the BBC on its children's TV programme *Newsround* Dr Williams said he was worried by news (2)___ half as many children know the prayer compared (3)___ 40 years ago. He said, "I'd like to see schools introducing children to the Lord's Prayer, so that they know it's there, they know (4)___ it means and why it matters and they (5)___ can make up (6)___ own minds later about whether they wish to use it."

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Dr Rowan Williams: "The Lord's Prayer isn't a very big (1)___ complicated thing." He added, "It's not as (2)___ you have to learn pages on end of things in a strange language. There are modern versions of it." (3)___ added, "(4)___ don't think it's too difficult to introduce children to this and introduce (5)___ in plain language and say not 'You've got to pray this,' but this is something that's really, really important to lots and lots of people and can change their lives."

The Archbishop of Canterbury's emphasis (6)___ Christian teaching (7)___ schools comes amid (8)___ ongoing debate among members of the clergy, many of whom believe that their faith is being sidelined in education. Last month the Church of England set out a plan to introduce 200 new faith schools across Britain. Church schools must argue their cause in a time where faith-based schooling is increasingly at risk.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	Archbishop	11	something
2	difficult	12	complicated
3	emphasis	13	sidelined
4	debate	14	whom
5	whether	15	amid
6	important	16	recently
7	clergy	17	twice
8	risk	18	text
9	increasingly	19	important
10	education	20	prayer

LINKS

http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/lord_traditional_king_james.html

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/17561869>

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/03/31/archbishop-of-canterbury-lords-prayer-children-education_n_1393413.html

ANSWERS

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