

### Should Children Learn The Lord's Prayer?

Recently in Britain the Archbishop 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 prayer compared with 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 what it means and why it matters and they then can make up their own minds later 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 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.

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 strange 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 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 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**

This ESL lesson is the copyright of [www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)

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.

<b>Faith 1</b> _____	<b>Faith 3</b> _____
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____
<b>Faith 2</b> _____	<b>Faith 4</b> _____
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.

Should Children Learn the Lord's Prayer? – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012

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."

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 (7)\_\_\_ compared to 40 years ago – but (8)\_\_\_ are now half as likely to know the text of the Lord's Prayer.

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.

**them**

**their**

**with**

**they**

**then**

**what**

**should**

**that**

**I**

**if**

**in**

**or**

**it**

**on**

**he**

**an**

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

### ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Should Children Learn The Lord's Prayer? **Recently** in Britain the **Archbishop** 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 **prayer** compared with 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 what it means and why it matters and they then can make up their own minds later 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 **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.

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 **strange** 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 **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** 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**. (V2)



Created by **David Robinson**. This ESL lesson is the copyright of [www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)