

trypraying.

TRY PRAYING

Putting the Pray into Play

MEET
JACK AND
THE GANG

A 7 DAY GUIDE WITH STORIES
ABOUT PRAYING

INSIDE

LOADS OF PUZZLES,
GAMES, CHALLENGES
AND PRAYERS

PRAYER IS ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING "TALKING TO GOD"

We're going to hear some stories of people who try praying in this magazine. Here's **JACK**, he has a friend who says they pray to God but he's never tried it before...



Jack's not sure God exists, but he's interested in giving prayer a go. But he doesn't go to church and he's not sure that God will listen to him. **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED PRAYING?



...MANY PEOPLE DO. IN FACT 1 IN 3 OF US DO PRAY MOST DAYS.

The Bible says that if we pray to God, he will listen, no matter what we have or haven't done. In fact the good thing about praying is you don't have to pray in a certain way or wait till a certain time. Over the next 7 days we're going to learn that we can pray...

**ANYWHERE, ANYTIME
ABOUT ANYTHING.**

DAY ONE 'ANYWHERE'

This is **RUBY**. Ruby has just moved house and has got her first day at a new school. She is feeling very nervous about it and decides to try praying. But she's only ever prayed once in a school assembly and isn't sure if she can pray to God when she's walking to school. Do you have to stand still to pray? Do you have to have your eyes closed? Do you have to be at church or at school assembly? Do you have to pray out loud and say "amen" at the end?

Unscramble the letters to reveal the answer:

**EW CNA PYRA
WEAERNYH**

(Answer: We can pray anywhere)

**WHAT WOULD
IT LOOK LIKE
IF RUBY DID
ALL OF THE
ABOVE?**



GOOD NEWS

...we don't have to pray out loud, we can pray while we're walking down the road with our eyes open. And we can pray **ANYWHERE**... On the way to school, while we're eating our lunch, when we're in bed and even when we're on the toilet!

"I am with you always"

JESUS SAYS



ISN'T IT GOOD TO KNOW THAT WE CAN PRAY ANYWHERE, ANYTIME ABOUT ANYTHING?

PRAYER:

How about praying right now, wherever you are:

Dear Jesus, thank you that I can pray anywhere because no matter where I am, you are always with me. Amen.

ACTION:

Try finding a place in your house where you can hide away and say a prayer.

(Remember you can pray anywhere... sometimes it's fun to have a place to go to!)



DAY TWO 'ANYTIME'

It's the middle of the night and **BELLA** has just woken up. She has had a scary dream and was just about to go to her parents room but thought she might try praying first. But then she had a thought. **DOES GOD GO TO SLEEP? CAN YOU PRAY AT ANYTIME?**



Find the keyword...

NAMIYTE

		3			6	7	

HAEWYNRE

		2					

keyword

TYHGNNIA

1		4		5			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE TIMES WHEN YOU CAN PRAY:

- When you have to do a talk in front of your class?
- When it's the middle of the night?
- When you're bored?
- When you're in the middle of a game of football?

...ANSWER
YOU CAN PRAY ANYTIME!



JESUS SAYS

ISN'T IT GOOD TO KNOW THAT YOU CAN PRAY TO JESUS ANYWHERE, ANYTIME ABOUT ANYTHING?

PRAYER:

How about praying right now no matter what the time is:

Dear Jesus, thank you that you're always listening no matter what the time is. Help me to include you in my life because anytime is a good time to pray. Amen.

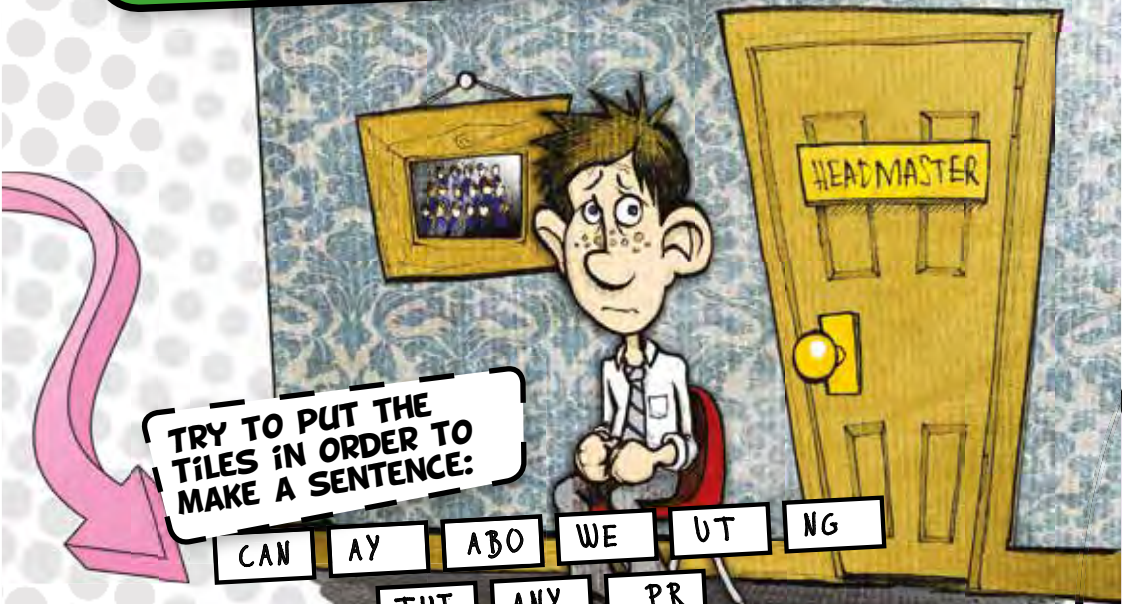
ACTION:

If you've got an alarm clock you could set a time for the alarm to go off. Then when it goes off say a prayer, because anytime is a good time to pray.

(You might want to get an adult to help you choose a good time)

DAY THREE 'ANYTHING'

This is **OLLIE**. He is outside the headmaster's office because he hit someone in the playground. He knows it was wrong but couldn't help himself. Things haven't been too easy for him at home recently so when Josh made fun of him in front of everyone he felt so angry that he hit him really hard. He's heard of people praying when they're in a scary situation but he's done something wrong. What do you think? Will God hear his prayer? Is it OK to pray for help even when it's your fault?



TRY TO PUT THE
TILES IN ORDER TO
MAKE A SENTENCE:

CAN AY ABO WE UT NG
THI ANY PR

Write your
answer here:

TRY RANKING IN ORDER, WHAT YOU THINK MIGHT BE A GOOD PRAYER FOR OLLIE TO PRAY:

- 1) Please get me out of this mess
- 2) Sorry God, I shouldn't have hit Josh but he really bugged me. Please help me.
- 3) Please get Josh in trouble too, he started it.
- 4) Please make the headmaster disappear

JESUS SAYS

"Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything"

ISN'T IT GOOD TO KNOW THAT WE CAN PRAY ANYWHERE, ANYTIME ABOUT ANYTHING?

PRAYER:

What's on your mind right now? You can talk to Jesus about it right now.

Dear Jesus thank you that I can talk to you about anything and everything. Please help me with (say whatever is troubling you right now). Amen.

ACTION:

Make your own stress ball by filling up a balloon with some flour and then tying a knot on the end. (You may want to get an adult to help you.) Carry this around with you for the day and anytime you feel stressed give it a squeeze and pray asking God to help you.

DAY FOUR 'THANKYOU'

Sometimes we have a day where everything seems to go well. Here's **RUBY** again. Since discovering she can pray anywhere she's been praying lots and is having a great day! It's sunny, she's got her new shoes on, she prayed this morning about a spelling test that she'd be working on and it went really well. She got 19/20, her best mark ever! She's going to her friends house this afternoon... Life couldn't get much better and she feels like saying thank you.

WHO COULD SHE THANK?

THE POSTMAN
 THE NEAREST DOG
 GOD BY PRAYING
 HER SOCKS

(She could also thank her parents for her new shoes!)



TRUE STORY...

10 people came to Jesus with a terrible disease called leprosy. Jesus healed them all but only one came back to thank him. Sometimes it's easy to forget to thank God for the good things that he's done but it always feels good to say thank you!



JESUS SAYS

"Where are the other 9. Is it only you that has returned to say thank you to God?"



THERE'S A PHRASE THAT'S IN THE BIBLE LOTS OF TIMES... SEE IF YOU CAN FIND IT HERE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
21	25	3	10	26	14	6	13	12	17	2	1	5	22	9	24

Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15	23	20	18	16	8	4	11	19	7

Hint: Use the code to find the missing sentence

 6 12 8 26 18 13 21 22 2 20 18 9 18 13 26

 1 9 23 10 14 9 23 13 26 12 20 6 9 9 10

(Answer: 'Give thanks to the LORD for he is good')

PRAYER:

Remember we can pray anywhere, anytime about anything. So that means saying thank you too!

Dear Jesus, you give me good things everyday, whether I deserve it or not. Thank you so much and especially for ... (think of something that you're thankful to God for today). Amen

ACTION:

Write the words "thank you" on a piece of paper and attach some sticky tape to it. Then find something in your room that you're thankful to God for and stick the thank you note on it! (Just leave the note on there for one day, long enough to remind you that it's a gift from God!)

DAY FIVE 'GOD DIDN'T ANSWER ME'

Here's **OLLIE**. You may remember that he learnt that he could pray about anything and since day three he's been praying a lot. However the other day he asked God for a pet rabbit but didn't get one. He's prayed more than once about it and has asked his mum but she still keeps saying no. If it's true that he can pray anywhere, anytime about anything then why is it that God hasn't given him a rabbit yet?



"Your dad in heaven gives good gifts to those who ask him"



JESUS SAYS

SO IF GOD LOVES TO GIVE GOOD THINGS, WHY HASN'T YOUR PRAYER BEEN ANSWERED?!

A great way to think about this is to think about traffic lights. There's three colours on a traffic light. Each colour means something to a car but it can also show us 3 different answers that God might say to our prayers:



No, I've got something better for you

Yes, but not right now. I'll give you that at the right time

Yes!

God doesn't always say yes, but that doesn't mean that he doesn't love us or doesn't listen to our prayers. Red would be like God saying, "I've got something better for you" and amber would be, "there's a time when that prayer will be answered but it's not just yet."

That's not always easy to understand, but it's a bit like this; imagine you've got a 2 year old brother and he wants to play with something.

PLEASE CAN I PLAY WITH...

Match the following requests with the **stop**, **wait** (until you're a few years older) and **go** answers. Colour in each circle with your answer.

- A POISONOUS SNAKE?
- A PAIR OF SCISSORS
- A HOT CUP OF COFFEE?
- A TEDDY BEAR?
- A JIGSAW PUZZLE?
- A GUN?

Some things will be bad to play with no matter how old your brother is, some things are only safe when he is older and some things are safe for now.

Answers from top to bottom = red, amber, green, green, green, red



PRAYER:

Is there something that you have asked God for but you've not had it answered yet? Why not take 30 seconds to say nothing and listen to see if God speaks to you about why that might be.

Dear Jesus, please answer my prayer. But also help me to hear and understand what you might be saying. Amen.

ACTION:

Draw a picture of what you are asking God for and put it next to your bed. Every time you go to sleep you can ask God for it until the prayer is answered or until you understand what God is saying... remember to listen!



DAY SIX 'HARD TIMES'

Have you ever had a really hard thing in your life, maybe you've even tried praying but it didn't seem to make a difference? Here's **BELLA** who learnt that she could pray anytime. But she's having a hard time at the moment. Her pet hamster has just died and she doesn't really feel like praying because she feels so sad.



Jesus is a good friend to have in hard times. He's overcome all hard times, including dying and coming back to life! When Jesus was on earth he talked about heaven, **A PLACE WHERE THERE WAS NO PAIN AND NO CRYING**. And he said that there is a place for everyone there, **INCLUDING YOU**.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO JESUS:

- All his friend's left him
- His best friend died
- People made fun of him
- He got really badly beaten up

Jesus knows about sad times so he's really good to talk to about it. And what's more, he really cares about how you're feeling and is always listening. So telling him how we feel is a good place to start. No matter what, God is always listening and our prayer always makes a difference. Even if it's tricky to spot.

TRUE STORY...

In the Bible there was a man called David who had a lot of sad and hard times before he became a King. He always shared with God how he was feeling and this helped him remember that God was with him no matter what.

PRAYER:
In the empty speech bubble try writing some words to God that describe how you're feeling about a sad situation.

ACTION:

Find a little stone that you can put in your pocket. Each time you find it you can remember that God knows about your sad situation and he is going to carry you through it, just like you have been carrying the stone.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE PUZZLE...

Sometimes it might be hard to spot the difference that prayer makes but remember prayer involves God in the situation, however hard it might be.

rescue alone
cry trouble
distress agony



(Answers: different colour

of eyes, lion design on T-shirt, crown detail, different belt, missing machine head on guitar, stone and slingshot in hand)

DAY SEVEN

'BEST WAY TO PRAY'

Maybe if you're reading this page you've tried praying before, whether you've prayed lots of times or whether you've only just started, like Jack (remember him from the beginning?). And maybe you're wondering "what's the best way to pray?" And is there a right or wrong way to pray?

Like **JACK**, you've learnt that we can pray anywhere, anytime about anything. You know that it's great to say thanks to God and you also know that even if it doesn't seem like God is answering your prayer, he's always listening.

So although we can pray to God about anything in the way that feels most normal, Jesus also gave us prayer as a guideline.

WORDSEARCH

G F E K M H W L G R W F S T H
S N E V A E H O J S O L Y P C
W F Y J E J D X H R W E A N O
J F E O N R N M G R F Z W Z Q
O A C X F X Y I B L E G L W E
K Y I F Z D V T G N E G A M R
X I L T Z E I A H V W S N Y U
W J I E U P D F B I L W M A C
Y F C V W R O N G Q N A T A D
M J K E V V H X T C S G M G I
Y T T R A H N Z V L K P K E S
Y R R Y Y F F F B B T Y B N N
M D B O I H C Q S B F K A C C
T A Y N P O V R R P E L P I T
K D W E Q M R F M Q P N Z O Q



Can you find these words...

- ALWAYS
- AMEN
- DAD
- DANGER
- EVERYONE
- EVERYTHING
- FORGIVE
- GOD
- HEAVEN
- PLANS
- WRONG

These are all words from a prayer that Jesus showed us. To find a grown-up version you can look it up in a Bible at (Matthew 6: 9 - 13) or find it on Google, (it's called **THE LORD'S PRAYER**)

JESUS SAYS



Dad in heaven
You're incredible
Make this world a better place
Keep providing for me
Forgive me for the wrong things I do
And just like you,
I forgive everyone who has hurt me
Help me to do what's right and
protect me from danger or evil
Because you are God and everything
and everyone belongs to you
Right now and always
Amen.

One thing Jesus said is that your prayer doesn't have to be long. In fact it can be as short as one word. Remember God knows all that you need and he's always listening so you can pray anywhere, anytime about anything.

PRAYER:

Why not try saying the prayer above? You could go to the prayer space that you found on day 1 or wherever you are right now. Remember anywhere, anytime, anything!

ACTION:

The prayer on this page is a great prayer and many people say it everyday. Why not try saying it everyday for the next week and see if you can spot the difference that praying makes. Have fun!

LOOKING FORWARD

If you've got to the end of these 7 days but want to keep praying then you could use this magazine again for the next week or just use it from time to time to remind you of what you've learnt. Remember you can pray to God **ANYWHERE, ANYTIME ABOUT ANYTHING.**

Jesus used to take time to get away and pray. That might be something you want to do, maybe last thing at night or first thing in the morning. Remember God is listening all the time!

YOUR THOUGHTS

Write down some thoughts or a prayer to God.

God can be more than just someone we pray to He can be our friend. If you want to be a friend of God, you could pray this prayer...

DEAR JESUS

I know I've done wrong things, like sorry God. You can wipe out all the wrong things I've done, please do that for me. And I choose to live my life for you and with you. I choose to live a life of praying and obeying you.
Amen.

If you've prayed this for the first time make sure you tell someone, perhaps the person that gave you this magazine, (it helps make it real for you).



DID YOU KNOW?

There is a grown-ups booklet called "trypraying" as well as this one, "trypraying for kids". If you would like to order either of these then use the contact information below saying which you wish to have.

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trypraying

To order more copies:

Email: booklets@trypraying.co.uk

Phone 0131 202 6449

Web: trypraying.co.uk

For more information about trypraying please visit **TRYPRAYING.CO.UK**

CREDITS

Produced by **DAVE HILL**

hilltopandco.com

Design by **CHRIS JONES**

orangeballoon.co.uk

Illustrations by **ANDY SMITH**

andysmithworship.com



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