

Key Vocabulary

Islam	The religious faith of Muslims. This includes their belief in their monotheistic god, Allah.
Christianity	The religious faith of Christians based on the teaching and learnings of Jesus Christ.
Hinduism	The religious faith of Hindus based on the teaching and learnings of Brahman who exists in everything.
Pray	To speak or address a conversation with God or deity.
Prayer	Inside a faither, prayer is often described as a conversation or relationship with an almighty. Prayers are based on love, friendship, and support.
Worship	The feeling or expression of devotion and adoration for a deity or God.
Devotion	Where someone expresses love, loyalty or enthusiasm for a person or activity.
Meditation	The action or practice of meditating. This means focusing on the mind and train themselves to be mentally and emotionally calm.
Confession	A formal statement or discussion where an individual admits guilt or says sorry to any wrong-doing or sins.
Thanksgiving	The expression of gratitude, especially to God. Believers often say thank you for the good things in life.
Intercession	The process of making requests to God on behalf of themselves and other people.
Five pillars of Islam	The basic acts in Islam which are considered mandatory by believers and are the foundations of Muslim life.
Salah/Salut	The second pillar in the five pillars of Islam. This links to the ritual prayer.
Shrine	A holy place to pray for Hindus.

Religious Symbols:



Sacred links:



Christians may worship God using a Bible at a Church.



Muslims may worship Allah using a Qur'an at a Mosque.



Hindus may worship God using a Vedas at a Shrine or Temple.

Christianity (Christians)

Why do Christians pray?

Christians worship God in order to thank him for his love, ask for forgiveness for their sins and try to understand what God wants from them. Most Christians believe prayer deepens a person's faith. Praying can help the believer come to a greater understanding of God's purpose for their lives. Some Christians believe God answers their prayers for example the recovery of a sick person. If a prayer is not answered, they believe that the person asked for something God thinks would not be good for them.

When do Christians pray?

The bible does not state the number of times a Christian should pray. Their relationship with God is maintained through regular communication so most Christians pray daily. Often, Christians pray to their God when they wake up and before bed, sometimes before mealtimes.

How do Christians pray?

Prayer can be silent or said out loud. It can use set words or a person's own words. Public worship usually takes place in a church, chapel or cathedral. Private worship gives Christians a chance to spend time alone with God. Prayer can involve reading a set prayer, a person's own words, reading a passage from the bible, meditating, music, or silence. Some Christians kneel, bow their head, and clasp their hands together when praying.

Islam (Muslims)

Why do Muslims pray?

Salat (meaning prayer) is the second pillar in the 5 Pillars of Islam. This is an obligatory religious duty for every Muslim. Muslims pray because God has told them that they are to do this, and because they believe that they obtain great benefit in doing so. It connects each Muslim to all others around the world and to those who have uttered the same words and made the same movements at different times in Islamic history. Carrying out the prayer is spiritual. Prayer unites the mind, body, and soul in worship.

When do Muslims pray?

Muslims pray 5 times a day at prescribed times:

- Dawn (before sunrise)
- Midday (after the sun passes its highest)
- The late part of the afternoon
- Just after sunset
- Between sunset and midnight

How do Muslims pray?

All Muslims try to do this. Children as young as 7 are encouraged to pray. Before prayer, Muslims must clean. They perform a ritual washing known as Wudhu. Muslims pray on a mat (prayer rug). While praying, Muslims face in the direction of Kaaba in Mecca. They will perform a whole series of set movements. Their prayer is said in the language Arabic. They will take off their shoes before entering the prayer hall. Muslims must cover their skin before praying. Women cover everything apart from their faces and hands. Muslims can pray anywhere, but it is especially good to pray with others in a Mosque. Praying together in a Mosque helps Muslims to realise that all humanity is one.

Hinduism (Hindus)

Why do Hindus pray?

Hindus pray to god for 12 reasons. These reasons generally refer to believers asking God for help or to show devotion and appreciation. The reasons are considered in two parts; first is to solicit a favour from God and the other is to surround themselves in God's will.

When do Hindus pray?

In Hindu traditions, prayer takes place formally as part of puja, which is Sanskrit for adoration. This worship can take place in the home or in the mandir, or temple. Puja is worship and for Hindus provides a way of directly communicating with God. The act of prayer is part of puja, alongside rituals and songs.

How do Hindus pray?

For most Hindus, prayer forms part of the puja that takes place daily in the home at least once a day, often in the morning. Hindu worship is primarily an individual act rather than a communal one, as it involves making personal offerings to the deity. During puja Hindus repeat the names of gods and goddesses that are important to them. They also repeat mantras over and over again. Worshippers also offer water, fruit, flowers, and incense to God or the divine.