



Many Ways to Pray

Written and photographed by Daniel Giles



Many Ways to Pray



Dear God,
thank You for everything
You give me.
Amen!

At church, we pray to bring our needs to God and give thanks to Him.
I can choose to say 'thank you' to God.



At many churches, prayers are led from the front by the celebrant, or another person.



People may also pray from their seats and might pray aloud or silently. I can pray myself.



Sometimes we read set prayers that are written down.




Thanks to you God
for looking after my
family. Amen!

Other times, we may silently say our prayers through our thoughts.



We can worship God by praying aloud.

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair tied in a bun, wearing a red shirt and glasses, praying with her head bowed in a church. A thought bubble above her contains the text: "God, may you look over and protect my grandchildren. Amen!".

God,
may you look over and
protect my grandchildren.
Amen!

We can worship God by praying silently.



We can worship God by listening to the prayers of other people.



We can worship God in song.



Bless me God,
and help me be kind to
other people. Amen!

Church is one place where I can pray.



I can also pray at other places, such as home.



Lord,
may this jacket
keep me warm.
Amen!

We can ask God for things we need, such as food, clothes and shelter.
We can also pray that other people have these things.



I can pray to ask for God's help. God may use other people to help me.



Heavenly Father,
thank you for this food.
Amen!

I can pray to give thanks to God.



Whether I pray at church or elsewhere,
prayer is about talking to God and thanking Him.

Notes for parents



This resource has been created to assist people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and their peers in understanding the social situation of attending church services. This booklet focusses upon abstract religious concepts (such as prayer) and the structure of church routines. The underlying theme is that while churches may conduct their services in many ways, they exist for a single purpose: to 'know, love and serve God'.

This resource is suitable for preparing a person with an ASD to confidently attend a church service.

About the author/designer



Photo © Michael Nix

The series *What Happens in Church* has been created by Daniel Giles – an honours student at La Trobe University (Bendigo) and an individual living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This project has been inspired by his various passions of: graphic design, photography, assisting other people with ASDs and most importantly, living out his faith in God.

Daniel is pictured above with another project he created for people with ASDs titled *Facing Our Feelings*.

Acknowledgements

This project is dedicated to the God who desires for people with ASDs to know, love and serve Him (as He does of all humanity). This resource could not have been produced without Him.

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