

Prayer of St Francis

**Theme:** Prayer

**Prayer:** Give each child a slip of paper and get them to write on it what they would like God to do for them in Kingsquad today. Then get the children to place it in a box and we will look at them later on.

**Games:**

**Pretend:** Children stand in a semi-circle with arms folded, the leader stands in the middle with a ball which is either thrown (in which case it must be caught) or pretended to be thrown (in which case the arms must not move). If the arms are moved they have to move to the bottom of the semi-circle. If the ball is caught they try to catch out the original thrower. If the leader moves or drops the ball, he must go to the bottom of the line.

**Jailors keys:** Sit the children down in a circle and place a chair in the middle of the circle with some keys under the chair. One child sits on the chair with a blindfold on. Then you will choose one person who has to get the keys from under the chair and walk round the circle and back to their place without being caught. The person on the chair has three attempts to catch the person by pointing in the direction they think the person is coming from.

**Memory verse:** *“But pray and ask God for everything you need”* Philippians 4 v 6B (GNB)

**Introduction:** Have an enlarged copy of the prayer of St Francis for the children to see. Read it through together.

Write down the negative words from St Francis prayer, ie hate, sadness, darkness, injury, doubt, despair on a large piece of card. Have the positive words written out on pieces of paper and invite children to blu tack the correct word over the negative one.

**Story:** The story of St Francis. See resources section.

**Application:** St Francis is a good example of someone who gave his life to Jesus and spent much of his time in prayer. Jesus gave us the Lord’s Prayer as a model of a good way to talk with God. Can anyone remember some of the Lord’s Prayer? How do you think prayer helped St Francis? How can prayer help us? Think about the world and some of the things we can bring to God in prayer. Look in the box and see what the children have asked God for. Encourage them to keep talking to Him.

**Resources:** St Francis facts and prayer, Colouring sheet, Funsheet

**Prayer:** . Maybe the children could have a go at writing their own prayer based on the model of St Francis.

**Song:** “Make me a channel of your peace” Use this as a reflection as the children colour and decorate the picture of St Francis. (You can find several versions of this on CD)

**Extra game:** Animal statues. Call out the name of an animal. Players have to make themselves into a statue of that animal. Anyone moving becomes a judge. Play a few times until most are judges and see who is the winner.

## The story of St Francis of Assisi.

## Week 3

St Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. He came from a rich family, had a good education and many rich friends. One day he and his friends were out enjoying themselves when a beggar came along, asking for money. While the friends ignored the beggar's cries, Francis gave the man everything he had in his pockets. His friends laughed at him and his father was not pleased but Francis had begun to realise that there was more to life than just having fun! When he grew up, he turned his back on his wealth and committed himself to God. He lived a simple life of poverty and in prayer. When he was in the army, he got captured and thrown into jail for a year. This gave him a lot of time to think and pray. One day Francis had a vision of the risen Jesus calling him to follow Him and to tell people about God's kingdom. He helped lepers and poor people and went about barefoot, wearing a rough garment and preaching to the people about God's love and forgiveness. Soon other men started to follow Francis and they became known as the Franciscan monks. Francis also had a love of animals and birds. It was said that they used to flock around him and he had a gift of calming them and speaking to them. He used a donkey when travelling around and legend has it that the donkey wept when Francis died!

Francis continued to travel around telling people about Jesus and spending much of his time praying. He had several visions of Christ on the cross and ended his life on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1226, aged 44, singing Psalm 141.

### Prayer of St Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

"But pray and ask God for everything you need"

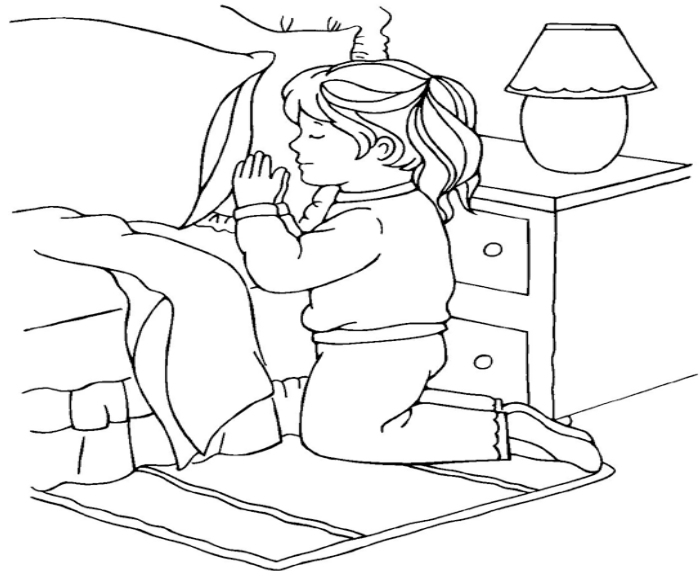


Philippians 4 v 6b



What things could you pray for?

- 1. -----
- 2. -----
- 3. -----
- 4. -----



Send your prayer to God through the maze

