

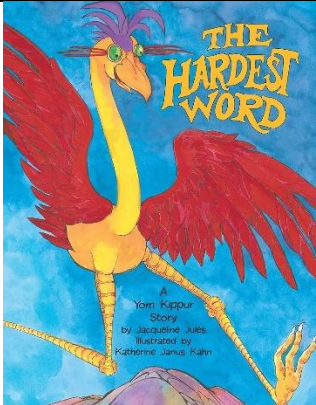
KS1 Judaism: Prayer and Worship



Why do Jewish families say so many prayers and blessings?

**The *EMMANUEL* Project 2020:
Teaching Judaism effectively in Key Stage 1**



		
Judaism Jewish	Tefillah (Hebrew for Prayer)	Sukkah
		
The Ziz – saying sorry	Synagogue	Sukkot

		
Besamim Box - Spices	Braided Candle	Kiddish Cup
		
Thankfulness	Shabbat / Sabbath	Havdalah ritual – ends Shabbat on a Saturday

Beginning: Discusses concept in own life	Q1 What prayers do you know about?
Developing: Draws on the lesson material	Q2 When do Jewish children say prayers and blessings?
Expected: Applies concept/answers key question	Q3 Why do Jewish children say so many prayers and blessings?
Greater Depth: Offers wider links to this or other faiths / personal views	Q4 How could I show someone I am thankful for what they do for me?

TEFILLAH For observant Jews, prayer is an integral part of everyday life constantly reminding them of G-d's presence. On waking there is a prayer thanking G-d for returning their soul, blessings said throughout the day and prayer before bed, all in addition to three set prayer services every weekday and additional services on Shabbat and festivals The Hebrew for prayer is tefillah. The Yiddish is "daven," linked to "divine", which emphasises the One to whom prayer is directed. Prayer requires Kavanah, "concentration" or "intent"; the person praying needs to be aware they are speaking to God and to focus on the meaning of their prayers. Prayers often use a liturgical melody which aids concentration as does the tradition of swaying back and forth while praying. Judaism stresses praying in Hebrew, although the Talmud permits prayer in any language. Praying in Hebrew links Jews across the world and through time, and was the language in which their original covenant with God was formed. It is the language of the Torah, the scriptures. In Judaism prayer is largely a group activity although one may pray alone. Prayers tend to use "us" not "me", and are recited on behalf of the whole community. A formal prayer service requires a quorum (minyan) of 10 adult Jewish men: a practice which can help strengthen Jewish communities in isolated areas. Blessings / Berakhot Berakhot or Blessings are very common in Judaism. According to tradition, people should recite 100 berakhot each day! Many of these special prayers are recited in synagogue services but they are also required in a variety of daily occurrences:	Blessings recited before enjoying a material pleasure e.g. eating, drinking or wearing new clothes. These blessings acknowledge G-d as the creator of what we are about to use and essentially asks permission to use the thing. Blessings recited before performing a mitzvah i.e. religious rituals like putting on tefillin, washing hands ritually, or lighting Shabbat candles. These blessings praise God as the one who has given Jewish people his commandments and celebrate these rituals or tasks as an honour to be completed for their Creator. Blessings recited at special times and events e.g. when seeing a rainbow, or a king, or hearing good or bad news. These blessings acknowledge God as the ultimate source of everything in the universe. When a Jewish person encounters something bad, they should praise God as "the true Judge," trusting that things that appear bad happen for a reason that is ultimately just, even if humans cannot always see the reason. All Berakhot start 'barukh' (blessed or praised), describing God as the source of all blessings. A berakhah, both speaks to God and expresses wonder at how blessed God is. The blessing continues: "Barukh atah Ha-shem, Elokaynu, mel-ekh ha-olam" - <i>Blessed art thou Lord, our God, King of the Universe</i>. The word "Thou" ('atah') is used for friends and relatives, and expresses closeness to God. Immediately after this phrase, the blessing changes to the third person, which in Hebrew expresses extreme respect and deference. A berakha thus expresses the idea that God is both close to us and yet far above us. Birkat Ha-Mazon: Grace After Meals This is a key Jewish prayer. In Deuteronomy 8:10, Jews are commanded to bless the Lord their God whenever they eat and are satisfied. This is fulfilled by reciting Birkat Ha-Mazon after each meal.
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