

Praying All the Time

Reviewed by Sally Benton

Praying All the Time: Snapshot



Praying All the Time is a multi-session curriculum that can be tailored to a seasonal formation series or VBS. It uses children's picture books to teach children a variety of ways to pray. The curriculum is designed for sessions that are 45–60 minutes long, and each session includes a gathering ritual, storytelling and group discussion, craft, and sending ritual.

Praying All the Time: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Using Children’s Books to Explore Different Kinds of Prayer”
- **Publisher & date:** Leader Resources (The Episcopal Church)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** prayer, storytelling, crafts
- **Cost:** \$49.95

Praying All the Time: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: The Song of Francis**
Praying with Singing
- **Day 2: The Very Hungry Caterpillar**
Praying Extemporaneously
- **Day 3: The Red Ribbon**
Corporate Prayer
- **Day 4: Old Turtle**
Breath Prayer
- **Day 5: The Legend of the Bluebonnet**
Jesus Prayer

Praying All the Time: Where It Shines

Accessible materials

This curriculum is based off books that are easily to acquire. If you don't already have access, you could likely find them from your local library. The crafts also require few materials. Most of what is needed is likely already sitting unused in a church cabinet or closet.

Repetitive in a familiar way

While the content changes each day, the structure of the day is relatively simple and does not change day to day. This helps children know what to expect and be prepared for what is to come at each transition throughout the program.

Praying All the Time: What We Miss

Catchy music or flashy theme

This is not going to be a flashy production. There is space to incorporate your own music, but there isn't more attention paid to that aspect than a line in the suggested schedule and a suggested Taizé chant. There is no flashy theme to decorate from, which is a drawback for some and a benefit to others.

Extensive content

The lessons for each day are not extensive. If you are aiming for a traditional VBS feel, you will need to plan to supplement the curriculum with your own additional activities.

Praying All the Time: Overall Assessment

**A simple
curriculum
geared toward
children that can
be used any time
of year**