

Religious place of worship

Different religions have different places of worship

Christianity	Christians pray in the Church . Churches range in shapes and sizes from magnificent cathedrals to tiny chapels. Churches share common features such as pews, a lectern, a pulpit and an altar.
Islam	Muslims will go to the mosque for worship, study and social occasions. The mosque is the centre of the community. They will have features such as a minaret, a mihrab, a minbar, washroom and a dome.
Judaism	Jewish people will go to a synagogue to pray. In the synagogue there is a sink for washing and men and women will sit separately. In Reform synagogues everyone will sit together. There will be an Ark (where the Torah is stored), the ner tamid (a candle) and the bimah.

How do different religions pray?

Christianity	Christians can pray and the church or at home. At the Church, prayer will be lead by a religious person such as a priest and Christians will read from the Holy book – The Bible . Christians normally visit the Church on a Sunday.
Islam	Muslims pray 5 times a day. Prayer at the mosque is lead by the imam . Muslims have to make sure they are facing Mecca when they pray. To prepare for prayer, Muslims will perform wudu – this is when they wash parts of their body. Muslims will use prayer mats or carpet to pray. The Holy Book – the Qur’an – should never touch the floor and is used in prayer at the mosque and at home.
Judaism	When going to the synagogue, married women must make sure their head is covered. Boys and men will wear a Kippah. In some synagogues, men and women will sit separately to pray. Jewish people will wash their hands to purify themselves before prayer.

Why do people pray?

Religious people pray to become closer to God as well as to talk to God. A model for prayer is A.C.T.S showing A = adoration C= confession T = Thanksgiving and S = Supplication. These are four of the reasons that believers will pray; to show these qualities. Not all religious people pray, but many do as they believe that praying can deepen a person’s faith and can help the believer come to a greater understanding of God’s purpose for their lives. Some people grapple with the concept of unanswered prayer and why God does not answer all prayers.

Key Vocabulary

Bible	The holy book of Christians. It is made up of the old and new testaments.
The Tanakh	Jewish people follow the Tanakh. The first five books of this are the Torah which contains the laws of how to live a Jewish life. The other parts are Nevi’im and Ketuvim.
Qur’an	The holy book of the Islamic faith. It is the words of Allah.
Shema prayers	The Shema is the statement of the Jewish faith ‘The Lord is God, the Lord is One.’
Lord’s Prayer	A prayer that Christians recite and is thought to be the way Jesus taught to pray.
Fatiha	The first chapter of the Qur’an. It is the first Surah recited in full in every prayer cycle.
congregation	A group of people who are gathered together in a church to worship, not including the priest and choir.
hadith	A collection of traditions containing sayings of the prophet Muhammad which, with accounts of his daily practice (the Sunnah), constitute the major source of guidance for Muslims apart from the Qur’an.
Imprecatory/ Vindictive prayers	Prayers that invoke judgment, calamity, or curses, upon one's enemies or those perceived as the enemies of God
siddur	A siddur is a Jewish prayer book, containing a set order of daily prayers.