



You will need...

- PPT
- A helper (prepared in advance)

The story

In our children's slots this term, we are answering the question, "What is church for?" Last time, we learnt that church is for hearing God speak in the Bible. *[P/pt of child holding Bible.]* We learnt that when we study the Bible together, we are hearing God speak to us, in the power of the Spirit.

Today we are learning that Church is for talking to God. *[P/pt of child praying.]*
[P/pt] Ephesians 6: 18 says, "Pray in the Spirit at all times. Pray with all kinds of prayers, and ask for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready. Never give up. Always pray for all God's people." (ICB Version)
Pray with all kinds of prayers... ask for everything you need. Never give up.
God tells us to pray to him.

SLOW It makes perfect sense that if we hear God speak when we have the Bible taught to us, the next thing we want to do is to talk to him in prayer. He speaks to us, we speak to him. He tells us what we need to hear; we want to reply to him by praying.
It's like any conversation. *[Invite up the helper you have prepared]*

Imagine I am having a conversation with this person...

Helper: I am so excited! Have you heard what Jesus Christ is like? It says in the Bible that He is the perfect, loving, forever King. What do you love about him most?

You: *[Stand in silence, not moving at all]*

Helper: Did you hear me?

You: *[Stand in silence, not moving at all]*

Helper: Do you understand? Do you see what Jesus is like?

You: *[Stand in silence, not moving at all]*

That would be so strange. That would make no sense at all. When you hear something important, thrilling, life changing... you will always want to reply.



Helper: I am so excited! Have you heard what Jesus Christ is like? It says in the Bible that He is the perfect, loving, forever King. What do you love about him most?

You: *[With joy!]* I love that I can obey him knowing that he wants the very best for me

Helper: I love that I never need to feel alone because Jesus is with me

You: I know! Thanks for talking to me about him.

[Helper leaves]

[P/pt of child with Bible and praying].

At Church, we hear God speak in the Bible. At Church, we talk to God in prayer.

[P/pt of STOP sign.] It can be helpful to remember STOP, as a way to remember how to pray.

We can say to God, we're...

[P/pt] S- Sorry. We want to say that we're sorry. We need to be forgiven.

[P/pt] T- Thank you. Firstly say thank you for who God is. Praise him. Secondly say thank you for the good things he gives us.

[P/pt] O- Others. Pray for what others need. Particularly other Christians.

[P/pt] P- Please. What are you asking for yourself? Pray that God will give us what we *need* to keep trusting him, which might not be what we think we *want*. He has better plans than we do. Of course, we can pray anywhere....but we choose to come to church to pray together, because we are God's family, all trusting in God together.

Let me pray now:

Dear Father, we're sorry that we often forget how great it is that we can talk to you, our loving Father. Please help us to be a church of all ages, who love to hear your voice in the Bible and who love to talk to you in prayer together. Amen.