Who do you talk to when you are happy, or sad, or worried or pleased about something?

Maybe you talk to your mum or dad.

Maybe yu tell a friend or grandparent.





Christians believe that they have an extraspecial friend that they can talk to about anything - God.

When Christians talk to God, it's called praying.



You can talk to God anywhere - at home, in the car, out for a walk - and at anytime.

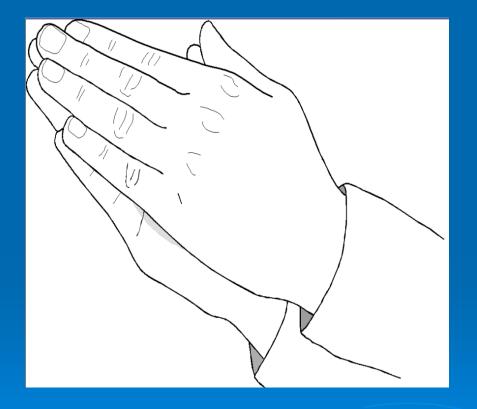
Sometimes people like to pray by themselves. At other times they might pray with other people, often at church.



In church the prayers are often said by the priest or minister.

Sometimes prayers are used that are written in a book.





There are many different kinds of prayers.

They may say: 'Thank you' 'I'm sorry' 'I love you' 'Help!'

You can pray in your head as well as out loud. At the end of prayers, people say, 'Amen', which means, 'I agree.'



People of all religions pray.

Let's look at how people of Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh faith pray.







Muslims pray at five set times every day.

The prayers are learnt by heart and are always the same.

A Muslim can pray anywhere, but it is especially good to pray with other Muslims in a mosque.





In a mosque all the men pray together in one room and the women pray together in another room.

When Muslims pray they face Mecca the birthplace of Mohammed.

They often have a prayer mat to kneel on.



Buddhists do not pray to a Creator God.

Buddhists pray for all living beings as well as praying for a particular person.









Prayers can be kept in prayer wheels which Buddhists spin around in their hands while they pray.
Buddhists chant or repeat a mantra – the most common one is :
'Om Mani Padme Hum' (Hail to the jewel in the heart of the lotus)



In the Hindu religion prays are offered to Gods and Goddesses.

A shrine is made in the home it is decorated with flowers, statues and candles and prayers are said there.



The first prayer a Hindu says is always to Ganesha.

When a Hindu prays to Ganesha it is to ask for help to drive away sorrow and bring happiness.

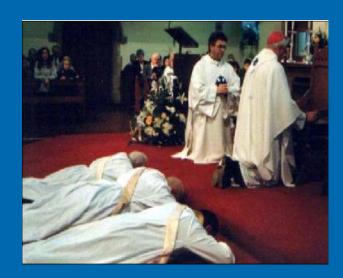


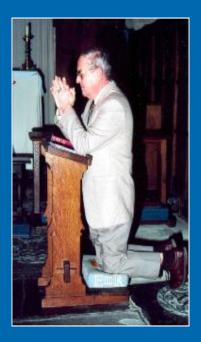
In the Sikh religion prayers are said at the Gurdwara or temple. Prayers are said together in one big prayer hall.



Prayers are read from the Guru Granth Sahib (Holy book).







All of these people are praying.

