



**Y6 Summer**  
**U2.4: If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?**

**THE INVESTIGATION**

This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from different religious and spiritual ways of life about worship, drawing out more detail, history and diversity through focussing on places of worship. Pupils learn about the various purposes of a place of worship as well as how believers see these places. Pupils think about the idea of God’s presence on earth and in believers’ lives.

Opportunities to debate are given, including of the key question, to offer pupils a chance to reflect for themselves on the

**Trips:** St. Dunstons Church, Stepney  
 Hindu Temple Neasden <https://londonmandir.baps.org/>

**Web Links:**  
 Introduction to Christianity: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdykjxs>  
 Introduction to Hinduism: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh86n39/resources/1>

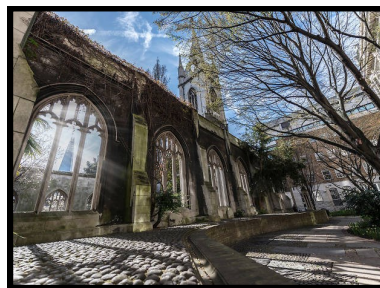
**STEP 1: THE KEY QUESTION**    **U2.4: If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?**

**STEP 2: SELECT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

EMERGING	EXPECTED	EXCEEDING
<p>Recall and name some key features of places of worship studied (A1).            Find out about what believers say about their places of worship (C2)</p>	<p>Make connections between how believers feel about places of worship in different traditions (A3).            Select and describe the most important functions of a place of worship for the community (B3).            Give examples of how places of worship support believers in difficult times, explaining why this matters to believers (B2).            Present ideas about the importance of people in a place of worship, rather than</p>	<p>Outline how and why places of worship fulfil special functions in the lives of believers (A3).            Comment thoughtfully on the value and purpose of places of worship in religious communities (B1).</p>



Hindu Temple, Neasden, North West London



St. Dunstan's Church, Stepney



East London Synagogue



Hindu Worship



Jewish Worship



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**STEP 3: SUGGESTED CONTENT FOR LEARNING**

This plan has selected the following content to exemplify the learning outcomes.

**Pupils will:**

- Find out some of the key features of places of worship: e.g. some differences between Anglican and Baptist churches; mandir; differences between an Orthodox and a Reform synagogue.
- Explore the duty of pilgrimage in Hinduism, which is seen as a wider part of worship. This concerns the need for Hindus to be seen by the deity worshipping at a particular shrine. Does this mean that God is concentrated more intensely in particular places?
- Can pupils talk about a place where people might say or feel God is somehow more ‘present’? What is special about these places?
- Consider these definitions: ‘synagogue’ = ‘house of assembly’ (a place to get together), also called ‘schul’ = school (a place to learn). Answer the key question in light of these definitions.
- What different ways of worshipping can they find within Christianity? Reflect on why some Christians like to go to church to meet with God, and why some meet in a school or in a home; e.g. community, being part of the ‘body of Christ’, mutual support through prayer and encouragement, music vs meditation, silence, simplicity, nature; some don’t like institutions, hierarchies, crowds! Why do Christians worship in different ways?
- Find out about alternative forms of Christian communities, e.g. [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk) Consider the appeal of these to some Christians

NOTE: The suggestions in this unit of work offers around 8-9 hours of classroom ideas. You need to select from it in order to achieve the learning outcomes set out in Step 2 above

**STEP 4: ASSESSMENT: Write specific learning outcomes.**

Turn the learning outcomes into pupil-friendly ‘I can’ or ‘You can’ statements.

You might adapt these specific outcomes to form ‘I can’ statements (for pupil self-assessment), ‘You can’ statements (for teacher assessment), and ‘Can you...?’ statements (for next steps or challenge)

<b>EMERGING</b>	<b>EXPECTED</b>	<b>EXCEEDING</b>
<p><b>I can...You can...Can you...?</b>  <b>Name the key features of a Church.</b></p> <p><b>Name the key features of a Synagogue</b></p> <p><b>Name the key features of a Mandir and worship in the Hindu home.</b></p> <p><b>Recount what Hindus say their places of worship are for.</b></p> <p><b>Recount what Jewish people say their places of worship are for</b></p> <p><b>Recount what Christian people say their places of worship.</b></p>	<p><b>I can...You can...Can you...?</b>  <b>Describe and explain differences within Anglican and Baptist churches.</b>  <b>Make links between Christian beliefs and features of these places of worship.</b>  <b>Describe differences between worship in the home and at the mandir</b>  <b>Describe the differences between different Jewish synagogues.</b>  <b>Make links between Jewish beliefs and features of Jewish places of worship.</b>  <b>Describe what places of worship are for.</b>  <b>Describe what people from different religions would say the most important function of their place of worship is.</b>  <b>Make links between Hindu beliefs and worship.</b></p>	<p><b>I can...You can...Can you...?</b>  <b>Give reasons how and why believers suggest places of worship are significant in their lives.</b></p> <p><b>Explain reasons for Hindu pilgrimage and why pilgrimage is important to Hindus.</b></p> <p><b>Explain how different aspects of worship; silence, nature and being together, help Christians connect to God.</b></p> <p><b>Give reasons why places of worship might be considered to be valuable in religious communities.</b></p>



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### U2.4: If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?



#### Christian worship

Christian worship involves praising God in music and speech, readings from scripture, prayers of various sorts, a sermon, and various holy ceremonies (often called sacraments) such as the Eucharist. While worship is often thought of only as services in which Christians come together in a group, individual Christians can worship God on their own, and in any place.

#### Origins

Christian worship grew out of Jewish worship.

Jesus Christ was a religious Jew who attended the synagogue and celebrated Jewish festivals, and his disciples were familiar with Jewish ritual and tradition.

The first obvious divergence from Judaism was making Sunday the holy day instead of Saturday. By doing this the day of Christian worship is the same as the day that Jesus rose from the dead.

Jesus's promise to stay with his followers, fulfilled in the sending of the Holy Spirit, illuminated the development of Christian worship from early times.

#### God is present

So Christians regard worship as something that they don't only do for God, but that God, through Jesus's example and the presence of the Holy Spirit is also at work in.

#### Jewish Worship

For Jews, worship can take place either in the synagogue or at home. It is often more important to practise faith at home.

For example, this is the case for the practices related to Shabbat.

One of the key mitzvah is worship, which is a duty as part of the covenant with God. Worship is also important to Jews because it brings the community together.

Worship in the synagogue includes daily services, rites of passage and festivals. Worship at home includes prayers, Shabbat meals and study.

#### Worshipping in the Synagogue

##### Orthodox

Orthodox synagogues hold three daily services in Hebrew. The person leading the congregation faces the aron hakodesh. Men and women sit separately, and men cover their heads with a skull cap or kippah.

Married women wear a scarf over their head, which shows respect for God. Orthodox Jews often sway, which helps them to concentrate on the words being said.

##### Reform

Reform synagogues don't have daily services like those held in Orthodox synagogues, but when they do the services is in both Hebrew and the language of the country the synagogue is in. In the UK, this is English. Reform synagogues hold services on Shabbat.

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#### Hindu Worship

##### Puja

Hindu worship, or puja, involves images (murtis), prayers (mantras) and diagrams of the universe (yantras).

Central to Hindu worship is the image, or icon, which can be worshipped either at home or in the temple.

##### Individual Rather Than Communal

Hindu worship is primarily an individual act rather than a communal one, as it involves making personal offerings to the deity.

Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses, and repeat mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to god.

##### Worship at Home

The majority of Hindu homes have a shrine where offerings are made and prayers are said.

A shrine can be anything: a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues of the deity.

Family members often worship together. Rituals should strictly speaking be performed three times a day. Some Hindus, but not all, worship wearing the sacred thread (over the left shoulder and hanging to the right hip). This is cotton for the Brahmin (priest), hemp for the Kshatriya (ruler) and wool for the Vaishya (merchants).

##### Temple Worship

At a Hindu temple, different parts of the building have a different spiritual or symbolic meaning.

The central shrine is the heart of the worshipper

The tower represents the flight of the spirit to heaven

A priest may read, or recite, the Vedas to the assembled worshippers, but any Hindu can perform the reading of prayers and mantras.