

have read of three little boys who prayed in a saw-pit : and of another who prayed in a house that was used for keeping sheep, and because there was no part of the house clean, he knelt on a piece of turf that he carried in with him. The three Jews prayed in a fiery furnace : Paul and Silas in a prison : and the thief prayed upon the cross. We have heard of a little boy who prayed sometimes when he was walking along the street : he used to pray in a whisper, so that nobody heard him but God. You can pray to God in the same way—in the school, or anywhere else ; or you can send up your thoughts to God without moving your lips at all. It is not the place, nor the time, which God regards, but the heart. He will hear *wherever* you pray, and *whenever* you pray, if you pray with the heart. He hears even a sigh.

“To heaven can reach the softest word—
A child's repenting prayer—
For tears are seen, and sighs are heard,
And thoughts regarded there.”

When you pray, take care of mocking God, by pretending to be sorry for sin when you are not ; and by asking him to make you holy, when you don't want to be made holy. Tell him just what you feel, and what you want, and use your own words. A little boy, named Joseph, once prayed in this manner :—“O Lord, I am a sinful child. I know I have sinned against thee. O Lord, I wish I had not. Do hear me, O Lord, and save me, a poor sinful child. Christ was crucified : save me for his sake.” How did this little boy *feel* ? He seemed to feel that he was a *sinner* and in *danger* ; because he asks to be *saved*. Saved from what ? From the punishment his sins deserved. He seemed to be sorry, too, for his sins ; for he says, “O Lord, I wish I had not.” He knew likewise about Jesus ; for he pleads his death—that is, he puts the Lord in remembrance that Christ was crucified—and he asks to be forgiven for his sake. Think on these four things—that you are a sinner—that