

faith at home

Weekly Resources for Schools

PHASE: PRIMARY

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Remembering the Servant Queen



KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

On this sad day, we remember together an extraordinary person – Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – whom most of us have known of throughout our lives. Not only was she our Queen, our sovereign, she was also someone who believed that leadership meant dedicating her life to the service of others.



She sought to commit herself, nurtured by her Christian faith, on her 21st birthday to serve those she and her family reigned over.

“I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service ... God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.”

She affirmed that vow at her Coronation, when she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

As we process and reflect upon the death of the Queen, we may find we are reminded of those close to us whom we have lost. It is important to give ourselves the time to remember what we loved about them, why they were special to us, and acknowledge the sadness of losing them.

“The love will have been enough; all those impulses of love return to the love that made them. Even memory is not necessary for love.”

Queen Elizabeth II (11 September 2001)

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Come Holy Spirit, Painted by Lance Brown, oil on canvas, Painted circa 2014

[Slide 2 | Peter 4:8 -11](#)

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.



Gathering

Slide 3

Prepare the worship area with:

- black - edged cards
- a basket with prayer cards for collection
- a large real or electronic candle
- a picture of the Queen on a flipchart or stand, with sticky notes/ piece of card which can be attached

As children enter worship, use a reflective piece of music (for example [Nimrod](#) by Elgar) to set the tone, light the candle and display an image of the Queen.

Take a moment of quiet to reflect upon our own thoughts, feelings and memories of the Queen.

Begin with your usual greeting to gather everyone together (familiarity is a helpful part of providing a safe environment in sad and difficult times).

You may like to start with an opening prayer, such as this one:

Slide 4

Dear God

We gather here today to remember Her Majesty the Queen.

We give thanks for her long life, and for all the ways she loved and served those in her care.

We bring you our sadness for what we have lost;

Our gratitude for what we remember and cherish,

And our wondering about what is to yet to come.

Thank you for the comfort, peace and hope you bring us.

Amen.

Engagement

Slide 4

Who was the Queen *to you*?

Ask the children to recall any instances they can think of when they have seen the Queen, listened to her speak, seen her image in everyday life.

(You may want to direct them to e.g. Royal Weddings, the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh, her appearance at sporting events or at the opening of Parliament, and remind them of places the National Anthem is played.)

You might not know that the Queen was given a huge job to do – to rule over not just the UK but also the 54 Commonwealth nations. The Queen was a committed Christian throughout her life, and she made a choice to follow the teachings of Jesus in the way she acted as Queen.

Let's read this verse together from our Bible reading:

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards.'

1 Peter 4:9

Imagine you were King or Queen for a day – what would you want to do with the power, fame and money you had?

What did the Queen do with what she was given as monarch?

Slide 5

Share the quote from the Queen: *“I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service ... God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.”*



How might you describe the sort of Queen she was? Gather the words the children come up with and display these around the image of the Queen.

Can you think of any examples of when the Queen demonstrated these qualities?

Have you ever been given responsibility – a special task or role? How did you act towards others?

Can you think of a time when you demonstrated these qualities we have seen in the Queen?

I wonder – is it always easy to serve and think of others? Do you think the Queen always found it easy to keep her promise to serve all those who reigned over?

Where might we draw strength from to reflect the qualities and the virtues of servant leadership which the Queen has modelled throughout her reign? What might we need to help us sustain that style of leadership?

Return to the Bible reading: ‘If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides.’

The Queen spoke often about how she asked for God’s help in undertaking her highly important role. She knew that she needed great strength to be able to serve others in the way she had committed to.

I wonder – what can we learn from the Queen’s example in asking for God’s help? What do you need help with today? Where do you get help and strength from?

Perhaps today you need help with the sadness of knowing we have lost someone really important in our lives. Who comforts and supports you when you experience hard things?

Response

Slides 6-7

Show the image of the black-edged postcard (you may like to do this afterwards in class groups, writing actual postcards and scribing group ones for younger children Ask them to think about what they would say/ write to remember the Queen.

Encourage reflection which talks about the difference Queen Elizabeth made in our lives. Staff may like to be part of this, too.

What will they especially remember about the Queen and why?

You might like to use a format like this (at an age-appropriate level) – see slide 7:

HRH Queen Elizabeth II

Today I am feeling..... about the Queen

I remember the Queen

The Queen showed us how to be.....

I hope we never forget.....

Sending

Invite the children to share their ideas and scribe these next to a picture of the Queen. Light a candle and ask everyone to be quiet for a moment of remembrance.

In class worship, ask the children to place a lit electric tealight on top of their black-edged postcard, or light a candle at the front of the class.

Slide 8

Recall the Queen's words: ***"The love will have been enough; all those impulses of love return to the love that made them. Even memory is not necessary for love."***

Remember that the Queen was also a mother, grandmother and even great-grandmother.

Return to the beginning of today's Bible reading: **'Above all, love each other deeply'**.

Take a moment to think of those we love, and give thanks for them.

Remind the children that when we lose someone who is important to us, the thing that matters most is the love we had for them and they for us. Share with them that the Queen was motivated in all she did by her love for God, her family and all those she served.

The greatest way we can honour her is to love and serve the people we encounter in our lives.

As we go out from worship today, let us think about one way in which we can love and serve others as the Queen did.

Slide 9

Listen together to the prayer from the Archbishop of Canterbury, or say your own prayer or reflection.

Slide 10

Conclude quietly and peacefully using this famous verse from the Bible: Let your servant now depart in peace. **Amen**

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(Practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us **ENCOUNTER:**



Often, when we serve others, we do so with our hands.

Draw around a hand, and on each finger write about ways the Queen served other people.

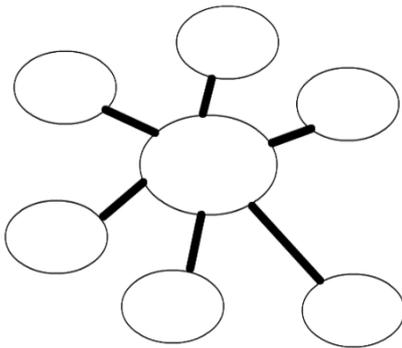
Draw around your other hand, and on each finger write about ways you could serve others.

Display the two hands together, side by side, thinking about how the Queen provided an example for us to follow in service.

Many people will mourn the Queen.

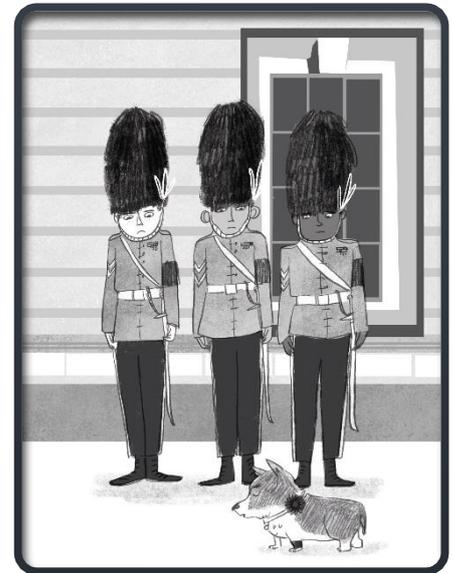
Can you think of who those people might be?

Create a spidergram to reflect on all those who will miss the Queen.



Think about:

- The Queen's family
- People who worked with the Queen
- People who met the Queen
- People in the UK and around the world



Don't forget to include the Queen's pets...

Take a moment to think about how her loss might affect them.

Perhaps say a short prayer, or light a candle, for each.

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ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Collect articles, images and quotes about the Queen. There will be lots in the newspapers and on the internet.



Try to find pictures and comments which particularly reflect a particular attribute of the Queen.

Such as: LOYAL, CARING, WISE, COURAGEOUS, FAITHFUL

Make a display to match each article/ statement/ image with the attribute, or create jars into which each can be placed.

Use the display or jars to remember the Queen throughout the week, and think about how we can demonstrate those attributes in our own lives too.

Use the **EXAMEN** prayer to give thanks for the Queen.

It has five steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. Give thanks for the Queen and her long life dedicated to serving others.
2. Ask for God's help to serve others like she did.
3. Reflect on how we feel right now – sad at losing the Queen (and others we may have lost), grateful for our memories of her (and those we love).
4. Say sorry for the times we thought more of ourselves than of others.
5. Commit to serving others more in the future.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

“The love will have been enough; all those impulses of love return to the love that made them. Even memory is not necessary for love.”

Reflect upon this quote from the Queen.

Is love always enough?

Does it matter if we remember everything?

What happens when we act out of love for others?

Is it always easy to love others?

Do you think the Queen always found it easy to love those she served? (Especially if they were arguing with each other)

What helped the Queen to carry on loving her family, our country and the Commonwealth nations?

What helps you to keep loving others when it feels hard?



To reflect more upon the life of the Queen, in particular thinking about her leadership of the Commonwealth, there is a supplementary Collective Worship resource on this topic.

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?