

# The Servant Queen

Here are two outlines to use with *The Servant Queen* – an assembly and a lesson plan. Adapt these to fit your resources and context, and discuss your plans with the teacher or school contact, so that you can be sure they're happy with what you're going to do.



## Assembly outline

Aim: to help the children explore the faith of the Queen and her attitude to service.

### Higher or lower?

Before the session, put these statements on a PowerPoint presentation:

- 1 The Queen has owned ten corgis.
- 2 15 Prime Ministers have served during the Queen's reign.
- 3 10 million people watched the Queen's coronation in 1953.
- 4 Although she is 90, the Queen still works 20 hours a week.
- 5 There have been ten different portraits of the Queen on our coins.
- 6 The coronation crown weighs more than six pineapples.

At the start of the assembly, split the children into two teams. Show each statement in turn and then ask the teams if they think the real figure is higher or lower than the one stated. You could either do this by asking everyone to shout out or, if you need to be less boisterous, ask a volunteer to answer for the whole team. Assign points for getting the right answer – who has the most points after the six questions? (See answers at the bottom of the next page.)



### Happy birthday!

Before the session, gather together some birthday party things, such as hats and party poppers. Include some Christmas items too, for example crackers.

Pull out your birthday (and Christmas) party items and share them around. Pull some crackers with some children and give the

party poppers to the teachers to pull safely. (Make sure this won't frighten any of the younger children present.)

Ask if anyone knows whose birthday you're celebrating. If no one can guess from your opening game, say it's the Queen's and that this year she is 90 years old. Ask the children if they know any other 90-year-olds.





## Christmas message

Before the session, get some Christmas music and find a copy of the Queen's 2014 Christmas message on YouTube.

Point out that you also had some Christmas party things, such as the crackers. Put on some Christmas music, read some cracker jokes and then ask the children what they do on Christmas Day. After you have heard a few suggestions, comment that many people watch the Queen's special Christmas message. Say that, every year, the Queen records a special message to be broadcast on Christmas Day afternoon.

Explain that, in 2014, the Queen talked about reconciliation, because it was the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Show the 2014 message, from 4:52 to the end (you can fade out the band playing 'Silent Night').

After the clip has finished, ask the children where the Queen gets her inspiration for reconciliation from. The Queen says that Jesus is her role model – as he reached out and accepted all that he met, so she tries to do the same. In her Christmas messages, the Queen often talks about Jesus. Jesus is, she has said, a great comfort, a profound teacher, the Prince of Peace and a Saviour with the power to forgive.

Read out, or ask a couple of volunteers to read out, the extracts from the Queen's messages in 2011 and 2002 from pages 10 and 11 of *The Servant Queen*.

## Reflection

Comment that the Queen has relied on Jesus since even before she became queen. Ask the children to think about who they rely on. Put on some reflective music and encourage the children to think about their answer as they listen to the music.

On her 21st birthday, the Queen promised to serve God and serve her people. Read out the words

from page 2 of *The Servant Queen*.

Do the children think she has fulfilled her promise to serve?

Say that you're going to pray. If the children would like to join you, they can, otherwise they can be quiet and reflect for themselves. Pray a short prayer to thank God for guiding the Queen, and thanking God for her faithfulness.

**Higher or lower answers:** 1 – Higher, she has had more than 30; 2 – Lower, it's 12. 3 – Higher, more than 27 million people watched; 4 – Higher, she works around 40 hours per week; 5 – Lower, there have been five different portraits; 6 – Lower, the crown weighs 2.2kg, about the same as a very large pineapple.



## Lesson plan

Aim: to help the children explore the faith of the Queen and her attitude to service.

### Thinking about serving

Ask the children to think about what the word 'service' means. If someone serves someone else, what does that look like? Try to move the children from thinking about servants and waiting on people, towards a wider sense of service – that of fulfilling a purpose, being called to a particular job and undertaking that with a servant heart.

### Watching the Queen

Before the session, search for and select a Christmas message from the internet. On YouTube, the official British Monarchy channel has the speech from 1957, or Sky News has the 2014 message. Depending on the length of the lesson, select extracts from the video to show to the children, or show the whole message (they are generally no more than 15 minutes).

### Exploring the Queen's messages

You will need: extracts from some of the Queen's Christmas messages from 2000 onwards – see [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk) (make multiple copies), pens.

Split the class into smaller groups of three or four children. Give out the extracts from the Queen's Christmas messages over the years, one extract per group, making sure each child has a copy of their particular quote.

Ask the children to read their extract and answer these three questions:

- What does this passage tell me about the Queen?
- What does it tell me about how the Queen sees her 'job'?

- What does it tell me about what the Queen believes?

Encourage them to underline any relevant words and write any comments (or questions) in the white space around the extract. Circulate while they're doing this so that you can help if necessary.

After a few minutes, bring the class back together and get some feedback. Ask the children to back up their comments and suggestions using material from their extract.

Can you gain any clear answers to these questions? Focus on the second and third one, in particular.





## \* Your Christmas message

Depending on the children's interest, set one of these two activities:

- Imagine you are writing a Christmas message for the Queen. What will you write for her to say, given all that you have discovered about her, her role and her faith?

- Imagine you have been invited to make your own Christmas address. What will you say?

Think carefully about what's important to you and write a short message to deliver to the rest of the class.

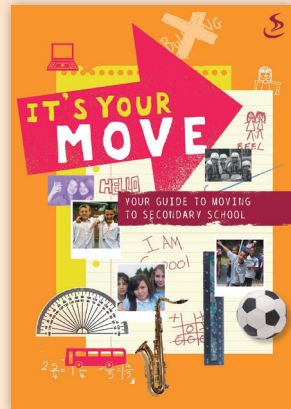


## Extension activity

From a Bible, read out John 13:1–5,12–17. Ask the children what kind of servant Jesus was. Wonder together what Jesus meant by washing his disciples' feet.

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Thousands of churches give the resource to their local primary schools, often alongside assemblies and lessons.



For more information about how you can get involved, visit the *It's Your Move* website: [www.scriptureunion.org.uk/itsyourmove](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/itsyourmove)