

Four Coronation Activities

Introduction

King Charles III, formerly known as The Prince of Wales, became King after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022. A weekend of celebrations will mark the King's coronation, marked with a bank holiday weekend from Saturday 6 May to Monday 8 May 2023. As well as a royal crowning ceremony at Westminster Abbey, there will also be a procession, a big concert, community lunch events and a day of volunteering.

In addition to his official duties as The Prince of Wales, His Majesty has taken an interest in all areas of public life for a long time. He has established more than 20 charities over 40 years and supported a wide variety of causes relating to the environment, farming, the arts, healthcare and education.

How should Christians respond to the coronation of a new king? 1 Timothy 2:2 says this:

‘You should pray for kings and for all who have authority. Pray for the leaders so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives—lives full of worship and respect for God’ (ICB).

Task 1

As a group, pray for King Charles today and for peace in our world.

Jesus is the King of kings

We sometimes read about Jesus as a king, perhaps ‘the king of the Jews’ as it said above his cross, or as ‘the King of kings’ as it says in the book of Timothy in the Bible. It is an interesting description. Imagine a painter described as ‘the artist of artists’ or a sportsperson described as ‘the footballer of footballers’! It would mean that out of all the types there are, this one is the best of the best. It says in 1 Timothy 6:15:

‘[Jesus] is the blessed and only ruler. He is the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords.’ (ICB)

So what makes Jesus so unique? One man tried to sum it up. Shadrach Meshach Lockridge was a church pastor known for his preaching across the United States and around the world. His best-known sermon was called *That's my king!* which contained a six-and-a-half-minute description of Jesus - at the end of an hour-long sermon!

You might wish to listen to it or watch the video [That's my King](#). **Warning** - at 1:11-1:18 there is a realistic depiction of Christ crucified which may not be suitable for younger children.

We learn that Jesus was a crucified king, a king who suffered for other people, a king who came close to people and comforted them, touched them and healed them. Not only that, but as Lockridge says, ‘the grave couldn't hold him!’ Jesus rose again - and no other king has ever done that.

Lockridge's sermon used a list of adjectives which seems to go on for ever as he tries to describe why Jesus is the King of all kings, then he admits that Jesus is actually indescribable!

Task 2

As a group, write a list of adjectives describing Jesus. This shows how you know him.

Do you know our national prayer?

Our national prayer dates back to the eighteenth century. *God save the King* was first performed in London in 1745, which came to be known as the National Anthem. It was first written to be sung after a play in London and quickly spread to other theatres. Soon, the custom of greeting monarchs with the song as he or she entered a place of public entertainment was born.

It feels odd today, but we are all getting used to singing 'God save the King' instead of 'God save the Queen'. You may also be surprised to learn that there are two verses, not one. If you read them carefully, you will notice that they are also a prayer.

'God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.'

Task 3

As a group, have a go at singing the national anthem today, then see if you recognise the tune as you watch this modern version! [Modern National Anthem](#)

Task 4

Having worked through these tasks, you may wish to use the additional colouring page with your group which contains the above prayer and the verse from Timothy 6:15 to display at home.