



Messy Vintage Jubilee session: The Queen's treasure

by Katie Norman



Messy Vintage

Messy Vintage reflection

My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;
if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for hidden treasures –
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
prudence will watch over you;
and understanding will guard you.
Proverbs 2:1–11, NRSV

Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings, advice, instructions and warnings which were given to the ancient Israelites. This anthology, though originally written predominately as a guide to young men launching their careers, is as applicable for us all today as it was when it was penned.

Proverbs tells us how to manage every situation by remaining calm-headed in a crisis, patient when pressed, gentle when challenged and firm when confronted with temptation. Above all, Proverbs shows us that the source of all wisdom is an intimate relationship with God. If he shines within us, then he will shine out of us too.

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II has certainly demonstrated that her treasure lies within, not only

through the way in which she has reigned with wisdom and faithfulness for the past 70 years, but also by the manner in which she radiates God's love for all people. Her faith is paramount to her and, like Jesus, she is comfortable in the presence of everyone, regardless of age and delights in hearing from those in her presence. She is held in high regard around the world yet maintains a gentleness and serenity that belies the position she holds. She must indeed have many memories as she celebrates her Platinum Jubilee and we too are invited to this celebration time to share our memories as well.

Messy team theme

The conversations will flow naturally as each item from the memory box is revealed and you talk about memories of celebrating previous royal jubilees.

How does this session help people grow in Christ?

A royal jubilee is a celebration of the reign of an earthly monarch, but as Christians we celebrate in the sure knowledge that we have a king who is greater still! So, as we celebrate Queen Elizabeth's amazing reign, we celebrate King Jesus too, who has been her rock and foundation throughout.

Activity

You will need: enough boxes with lids – approximately 30cm (L) x 18cm (W) x 8cm (D) – to have one for each table of no more than six people; a length of wide red, white and blue ribbon of sufficient length to go around each box and be secured with a large bow; suitable memorabilia placed in each box to initiate conversation (e.g. a hand-held Union Jack flag, a silver teaspoon, a dress ring, a paper crown, a small toy horse, a photograph of the Queen in the Gold State Coach). The boxes should be pre-covered in white/silver/pearlescent paper. (Large shoe/boot boxes are ideal for this activity.)

There is no craft to make on the day for this Platinum Jubilee celebration as the activity is designed to prompt a time of sharing memories. It is important that there



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is at least one team member on each table so as to stimulate the flow. One at a time, each person is invited to take an item out of the box and, if they are able, to say something about how it reminds them of the Queen or of a royal celebration. After the person who removed the item has spoken, other people around the table should be encouraged to share their memories too, before the next item is revealed and delighted in.

Depending on the time allocated to the activity section of your afternoon's plan, it may be possible to make Union Jack flags but don't underestimate how long the treasure box activity above will take – it is to be savoured and enjoyed. Should Union Jacks be required:

You will need: one flag outline per person (see end of PDF); red and blue crayons; sticky tape; sticks

Colour in the Union Jack outline and secure to the stick with sticky tape. The flags can then be enthusiastically waved during the singing.

Celebration

Reflect on some of the shared memories from the boxes and talk about the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II and the manner in which she has fulfilled her role as head of state.

Invite those gathered to listen out for words that they feel apply to her reign as Proverbs 2:1–11 is read out slowly. (You may wish to give out hard copies.)

Have a time of sharing and discussion.

Conclude with the observation that the Queen's greatest treasure is not a golden coach, the crown jewels, Buckingham Palace, etc. Her greatest treasure is that which lies within her heart, her love of the Lord whom she serves with true grace and faithfulness.

Prayer

**King of kings, majesty,
We give you thanks for our queen, Queen Elizabeth II
and for the way in which she has reigned over us for
70 years,
with you so evidently in her heart.
At this special time of her Platinum Jubilee,
protect her and strengthen her we pray.
May she delight in all of the celebrations that
honour her
and may she know true love, joy and peace
in her advancing years.
Through Jesus Christ, we pray
Amen**

You could also say the Lord's Prayer.

Song suggestions

'When we walk with the Lord (Trust and obey)'
– John H. Sammis

'King of kings, majesty' – Jarrod Cooper

'Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father'
– Thomas O. Chisholm

'The servant king (From heaven you came)'
– Graham Kendrick

Give me oil in my lamp (Sing hosanna) – Complete
Mission Praise #167

The national anthem (God save our gracious Queen)

Meal suggestions

An amazing Jubilee afternoon tea!

Gift suggestion

'Our faithful Queen' – a keepsake by Catherine Butcher
(hopetogether.org.uk)



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Activity: Union Jack template

