



Coronation of Charles III

by Lydia Harrison, Mary Judkins and Helen Laird



Messy reflection

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, 'We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, "You shall shepherd my people Israel, and you shall become their ruler."'

When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned for forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

2 Samuel 5:1-5 (NIV)

Pointers

During the coronation of kings or queens, certain rituals are followed to ensure a safe passage of authority from one monarch to the next. This process helps us to understand and accept change.

David was chosen as king and was told that he would shepherd the people. This seems to have links with the way of life that Jesus followed – as the good shepherd. Jesus often turned worldly values upside down – how can we do that today?

Many of us look to King Charles III to lead us and guide us as a nation, and to instruct and shape our MPs. What is it that makes a good leader? What qualities do we need in a leader today?

#discipleship: team

How does this session help people grow in Christ?

By celebrating Charles as king and exploring what that means for us, then by comparing him to a king in the Bible and the kind of king that Jesus was, we come to understand more about how to live a life that cares for others.

#discipleship: families

Mealtime card

- Would you want to be a leader/king/queen? Why? How can we all be a bit greener?
- If you were a leader/king/queen, what rule would you change? Why?
- What would be the best celebration for you? Why?

Question to start and end the session

So... what makes a good leader? What makes a good shepherd? Do you think God enjoys a coronation?

#discipleship: extra

Social action

Seek out what is happening on the Bank Holiday (if you're in the UK!) on Monday 8 May (The Big Help Out) in your area? What could you do to join in or help out?



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Activities

1. Crown biscuit



You will need: either a rectangular biscuit or a crown shape if you have one; icing; edible decorations

Decorate your biscuit to look like a crown. You could use yellow or gold icing. Maybe you could give it as a gift to someone to show that you honour them.

Talk about how the main part of the ceremony is when King Charles III receives and wears his crown – ‘coronate’ means having or wearing a crown. What other signs and symbols might we see during the ceremony? I wonder what will change for King Charles III now he has been crowned. What leadership skills do you think he needs?

2. Paperchain promises



You will need: paper; glue or staplers; pens

Cut some paper or card into strips and write on the strips either ideas of what might make a good leader (for example, showing kindness), or make a promise or covenant that you would like to make to either your family, your Messy Church community, your town or village or even the world. What gifts could you offer?

Talk about when David was crowned king, he made a promise to look after and shepherd his people. King Charles III will also make promises and lead our country through inspiring and challenging us and our other leaders. What qualities do you think a good leader should have? Are there any gifts that you have that you could offer?

2



3. Make a room spray with oil



You will need: mini spray bottles to fill; fragrance/essential oils; distilled water

Choose your oil and add one drop to the bottle. Add water and then shake to mix. The holy oil is blessed before it is put on the king – on his hands, heart and head. Can you think why it is these three parts of the body?

Talk about how the archbishop will anoint the king’s hands, heart and head with holy oil made to a secret recipe. I wonder what anoint means. I wonder if it means being chosen as someone special. Followers of Jesus are chosen to be special. How can people around us know we belong to King Jesus? How are we to be different? A room spray makes the space around us smell attractive. I wonder if others want to be around us because they know we follow Jesus and try to behave like he does?

3



4. Make an orb



You will need: something round (an apple to eat afterwards?); foil; sticks for a cross; pipe cleaner; ‘jewels’/beads

The orb reminds us that God is in charge, even of a king! The orb can be a symbol of the world and Jesus’ kingdom. Part of the Lord’s Prayer, taken from Matthew 6, asks ‘Our father in heaven... your kingdom come.’

4





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Talk about how we would know God's kingdom is on earth? I wonder what it would be like. What would you like it to be like? Jesus is our king, and we are his children. We care for each other. How can we do that? Why not hold your orb and talk to God about your concerns for the world.

5. Edible sceptre



You will need: long thin vegetables like carrots or celery (be aware of allergens!); small round vegetables like radish, sweetcorn or fruit tomato, cucumber, grapes, strawberries, blueberries; cocktail sticks

Decorate your long thin vegetable with a variety of the small vegetables or fruits to decorate it to look like a sceptre.

Talk about how kings have sceptres, and this is a symbol of authority. Jesus had a different sort of authority, he often talked in stories and one of the symbols he talked about was the shepherd's crook. The sheep of a good shepherd know the shepherd's voice, and the shepherd can lead them to good green grass through danger and problems because the sheep trust him and follow the shepherd because they are a good leader. Do you trust Jesus? Will you follow him as your leader?

5



6. Find a quiet place



You will need: a tent; pictures of streams, lakes, sunrises, sunsets, beaches, mountains and maybe some books



Make a den under a table or outside, and add pictures all around it.

King Charles III will have a hectic day on his coronation day – from the moment he wakes up until he goes to sleep. He'll be dressing up, be watched and be on show all day in London (and on TV etc). There will be 1,000s in the Abbey, and he will have to talk with many. Find a quiet place and just sit.

Talk about how Jesus often went off on his own to spend time alone by himself, and with God. Where can we go to do this? I wonder if you have busy days when you just wish for a bit of peace and quiet! Parents – is this you? Busy parents often shut themselves in the loo!!

7. Make a natural crown scene



You will need: use natural things like sticks, twigs, ivy, leaves, you could add jewel flowers using daisies or dandelions. You could pick this as part of the session or do the foraging in advance.

Use the items you have found to create a crown. I wonder if you like wearing the crown. Why/why not?

Talk about if you think the crown King Charles III will be wearing is heavy? How would the weight of it feel? I wonder how David felt when the tribes of Israel asked him to be king. I wonder how Jesus felt being King of the Jews. I wonder how Charles feels being king. With great authority comes great responsibility. The King's task will not be easy, and Jesus did not have it easy either. I wonder if you think Jesus is worth suffering for.

8. Outside smells



You will need: an outside space

If you have a fire pit you could use various items to warm on the heat so that they release their fragrance. If you do not have access to a fire pit you could move around your outdoor area, discovering different smells, which ones would be nice to use for anointing.



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Talk about how some smells are nice and some are less so. As disciples of Jesus, we should be different so that others can see Jesus through our actions. How can you do this more?

9. Make a thank you box/jar



You will need: a box or jar to decorate; things to decorate with; strips of paper; pen/pencil

I wonder if King Charles III got fed up with all the preparations for his coronation! I wonder if his family got fed up listening to him! Do you ever get fed up? Make a box/jar, and once a week write something good on a piece of paper, something you are grateful for and put it in. The whole family can do this. Maybe once a month share them all. What a fun way to make life more positive, with less moaning and complaining.

Talk about what makes you fed up? What makes you moan? (If it's because you're tired then have an early night!!). In King Charles III's first Christmas broadcast in 2022, he thanked his mother for her love, affection, guidance, understanding and example. He also thanked her on behalf of many in the UK, the Commonwealth and across the world. He did this in public. Who you could thank? Who makes you happy? I wonder if you say 'thank you' to your mum, dad, aunt, uncle, grandparents, teachers, friends. This could be a good time to start!

9



10. Five special things



You will need: paper and pens, or phones

Find five things that you can see here today that are special to you. Draw or photograph them and write why they are special to you.



Talk about how as part of the coronation, King Charles III is presented with a Bible when administering his oath, to make his promises as king. Kings and queens may pass but God and his word are ever present (omnipresent).

Celebration

The Coronation service and celebration goes back many centuries, and many of our rulers have been recognised in this way. There are certain elements of the service that remain the same, and certain symbols that are repeated. These rituals and symbols help our society to function and help power to be moved from one ruler to the next in a way that everyone recognises. Change can often be difficult to get used to, but the elements in this service reflect what happened at the Queen's funeral last year so that we recognise the next ruler, King Charles III.

There will be a procession, an oath or promise and anointing, followed by a Mass or Communion. Steeped in history and faith, this is a great start to King Charles III's rule, who will, as head of the Church of England, lead and inspire many people during his reign.

In our Bible story for today, David also made a covenant or promise with the people, and he was also anointed. He was referred to as the shepherd of the people, which was a sign and symbol of the kind of leader he would be.

What type of leader King Charles III will be?

We each also have the capacity and potential to be a leader. What you think a good leader is? Someone who is kind? Compassionate? Gentle? A good listener? Able to make decisions? What would be on your list?



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As we celebrate a new king, let us remember Jesus, the king who came as a small, vulnerable baby, to turn our worldly values upside down, and to show us a more kind and gentle way to live, that is fair and just for everyone.

In our broken world where people are struggling, let us be a good sort of leader. What gifts can we offer to the world?

Prayer

Linking in with Kings Charles III's anointing of head, heart and hands.

Bless us Lord and help us think about you more. (*touch head*)

**Help us to love your world (*touch heart*)
and to serve you. (*touch hands*)**

Help us to stay close to you, as we journey through life. (*hold hand out as though holding sceptre*)

Song suggestions

'King of me' – Rend Collective

'King of kings, majesty' – Jarrod Cooper

'Build your kingdom here' – Rend Collective

'He's got the whole world in his hands' – Mission Praise #225

'Who's the king of the jungle?' – Colin Buchanan

Meal suggestion

Coronation chicken and party food! You could have a bring-and-share lunch or a special afternoon tea with cake. Or even breakfast over the firepit – toast and scrambled eggs!