

Speaking to children about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II has died aged 96 after 70 years of Service. The Queen spoke on many occasions about her relationship with God and her faith. We can be sad and mourn that she has died but also celebrate her life and know that she will be free from pain and suffering in heaven.

Here are some suggestions for how we can share this historic moment with children.



Unpacking Emotions

We can feel many different emotions when somebody dies. There is no right or wrong way to feel. Invite children to share how they are feeling, do not be afraid to share your own feelings as well. Sometimes it is easier to describe how an emotion makes our body feel than find the right word for it. A child may not show the same emotional response as an adult, and it is alright if your child does not respond in the way you expect, there may also be a delayed response as children pick up on and mirror the emotions shared by adults around them.

You might want to explain that the country and world will spend time mourning together, this is because many people will feel sad and want to show respect for who the Queen was. We can be empathetic; thinking about how the family and close friends of the Queen must be feeling at this sad time.

How we can pray...

Pray for the royal family as they experience many different emotions during this difficult time.

Pray for parents within the royal family who are having their own conversations with children.

Remembering Service

We can remember the many wonderful ways in which the Queen served our nation and countries around the world. The Queen was also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Chief of the Armed Forces and Head of State.

How we can pray...

We can pray and thank God for the many ways that Elizabeth served our country and the world.

We can pray for the new King as he takes on these roles.

You might like to write a thank you letter together to the Queen for all her service.

Celebrating Salvation

We can thank God for the relationship that the Queen had with Him. We can also remember God's promise that those who know Him will be with Him in heaven, a place with no pain, sadness or suffering.

You might like to listen to some worship songs which speak about heaven and God's promises as you reflect on this future hope.

How we can pray...

We can thank God that Queen Elizabeth is no longer in any pain, echoing the words of Justin Welby who prayed "May Her Late Majesty rest in peace and rise in glory."

We can pray for the new King that he would be comforted by his own relationship with God.

Why does God let people die?

God's plan for this world was one with no pain, suffering or death where humans lived in perfect relationship with God. The world we live in isn't like that, it is fallen, sin has come into our lives and separated us from that perfect relationship with God. The world we live in has pain and suffering, sadness and death.

So God made a new plan, it was a plan that involved His own son dying so that one day we could all live with Him in heaven, in new bodies that never got sick, live lives full of joy and happiness every day.

Even though it is hard to be separated from people, we know that one day we can all be together again. Death is not the end but the next part of a journey with God. For those who know and love God there is the chance to live in Heaven with God forever.