

Secondary assembly

Education Sunday 2012

LEARNING AND SERVING

You will need;

- Chair
- Large bowl of warm water
- Towel
- Possible clips from the film *'The Queen'*

How many people will serve you today?

Put your hand up if;

- You were given your breakfast this morning by your Mum, Dad, brother or sister;
- You took the bus to school;
- You got a lift to school;
- You bought some food on the way to school;
- You're planning to buy some food at school at break or lunchtime;
- You will be taught a lesson today.

That means that everyone will have been 'served' by the end of the day by at least one person, if not more.

The Queen

I'm guessing however that none of those people you were thinking of who might serve you today was the Queen. No? Didn't anyone have the Queen drive their bus to school this morning? The Queen is another example of someone who serves us and it's often not an easy job.

I don't know how many of you have seen the film *The Queen*. In it, we are shown how the Queen copes in a number of difficult situations, in particular the death of Princess Diana. (Possible film clip here – see end for suitable sections). When struggling to cope with this, she is reminded of her vow when becoming Queen that her whole life be devoted to the service of her people. She didn't even choose to be queen – she was simply born in to a certain family at a certain time which meant this was the job she got. I can't say I wouldn't mind her money, but I don't think I'd fancy her job. Service isn't always easy.

Jesus' Example

I need a volunteer to help me out. (N.B. if you do not know the group, you may want to speak to a teacher in advance to ensure you get someone appropriate!) Volunteer, would you mind sitting in this chair and taking your shoes and socks off? Have we got some nose pegs ready?! And would you put your feet in this bowl of warm water? Ok, does anyone want to volunteer to wash his/her feet? Maybe not so many volunteers! (Give towel to student to dry feet and send back to his/her seat).

Actually, this is pretty much what Jesus said we should do in the Gospels. He said 'Whoever would be great among you, must be your servant' (Matt. 20 v 26). He's saying that to be a really great person, someone thought of highly by others, you need to be willing to do things for other people.

How can you serve?

I'm not saying you all need to spend break today trying to fit someone's feet in to the sink in the toilets so you can wash them, but there are lots of things you can do today and this week to serve others. How about helping someone to understand a difficult equation in their maths lesson? Or putting someone else's rubbish in the bin? Maybe you could listen and be a friend to someone who's going through a difficult time.



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Let us pray;

Father God,

You came in to the world to serve us. Help us to follow your example and serve others, not keeping score or thinking about what we can get in return, but in a spirit of friendship and love. Help us, through our actions, to make the world a better place.

Amen

Possible Sections from 'The Queen'

- HM Queen Elizabeth II: Something's happened. There's been a change, some shift in values. When you no longer understand your people, mummy, maybe it is time to hand it over to the next generation.
- HM The Queen Mother: Don't be ridiculous. Remember the vow you took?
- HM Queen Elizabeth II: I declare that my whole life, rather it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.
- HM The Queen Mother: Your whole life. That is a commitment to God, as well as your people.
- HM Queen Elizabeth II: But what if my actions are damaging the crown?
- HM The Queen Mother: Damaging it? You're the greatest asset this institution has. One of the greatest it has ever had. The problem will come when you leave. But you mustn't think about that now, certainly not today.
- HM Queen Elizabeth II: Oh, mummy.
- HM The Queen Mother: You must show your strength, reassert your authority. You sit on the most powerful throne in Europe, head of an unbroken line that goes back more than a thousand years.
- Alastair Campbell: They, er, sent a copy of the Queen's speech. Might want to scrape the frost off it first... Oh, I phoned them with a couple of suggestions, to make it sound like it came from a human being.
- Tony Blair: Yeah, all right, Alastair.
- Alastair Campbell: Well, at least the old bat's finally agreed to visit Diana's coffin.
- Tony Blair: You know, when you get it wrong, you really get it wrong! That woman has given her whole life in service to her people. Fifty years doing a job SHE never wanted! A job she watched kill her father. She's executed it with honour, dignity, and, as far as I can tell, without a single blemish, and now we're all paying for her blood! All because she's struggling to lead the world in mourning for someone who... who threw everything she offered back in her face. And who, for the last few years, seemed committed 24/7 to destroying everything she holds most dear!

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