



Feast of Christ the King: Assembly

King of
Hearts



An assembly for **the feast of Christ the King** which is also **National Youth Sunday** in England and Wales. The assembly will help children to reflect on Christ the King as 'King of Hearts'.

Pope Francis has described the heart as the place where we are truly ourselves and that this is where God meets us, if we let Him.

When we allow Christ into our lives – when we allow Him to become the King of our hearts - we experience the joy, peace, mercy and love that He brings.

What does it mean though for Jesus to be King of our Hearts? How can we have 'pure hearts' and prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus and His love? Do we allow other people and influences to be 'Kings' of our hearts?

Sunday 23rd November is the Feast of Christ the King which concludes the Church's liturgical year. The year ends on a real high point and celebrates the Kingdom of God in all its richness before beginning the new Liturgical year with the reflective and penitential season of Advent. The Feast of Christ the King is also celebrated, in England and Wales, as National Youth Sunday.

Ten Ten Resources have collaborated with the National Office for Vocation (NOV) in the production of this assembly for the Feast of Christ the King. The key scripture quote for this assembly has been specifically requested by NOV and is 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God' taken from the Beatitudes. Although this quote is not from the Sunday Gospel, it is central to leading children to reflect on Jesus as King of their hearts.

This inspiring, creative assembly will help children to encounter Jesus as King of their hearts. It will offer them the opportunity to invite Him to be part of their lives in a new way.

Key Scripture

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Matthew 5:8

Prayer of Preparation

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this opportunity to nurture the faith of the children in my care. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead and guide me as I prepare this assembly and bless each and every child with an open heart and mind to hear your Word.

In your name, Jesus, Amen.



Overview

Key Scripture:	"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8	
Learning Objective:	Children will learn that Jesus invites us to make him the King of our hearts.	
Success Criteria:	Children can make a personal response to Jesus' invitation to a relationship with Him as King of their hearts.	
Resource Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher's script • Laptop/ screen/ speakers • Powerpoint presentation • Printed copy of Appendix 1 • Printed copy of Appendix 2 (if needed) 	
Overview & Timings:	1. Introduction	2 mins
	2. Story	6 mins
	3. Response to Story / Discussion	5 mins
	4. Prayer	2 mins
	Total Time	15 mins

Teacher Script

1. Introduction

Timing: 2 mins

Introduce the feast of Christ the King and explore what type of King Jesus is.



You may choose to have background music playing as children enter the hall.

Slide 1

- Explain to the children that the Church’s year is called the Liturgical Year and that the Feast of Christ the King is being celebrated to end the Liturgical Year.
- You may want to point out that the Liturgical Year is different from the calendar year/school year/football year and that next week is a new year.
- It may even be relevant to let children know that ‘Christ’ is one of the titles given to Jesus that means ‘chosen’ or ‘anointed’ and we call Him the King too – King of all creation, of our lives, even of the Universe.



Slide 2

- The following questions are aimed at helping children to describe their existing ideas about kingdoms and the nature of kings. This will then give some context to their ideas about Jesus as a king.
- The questions offered are for all age groups – all questions need to be posed – direct them to the most appropriate group of children. Each question will appear with one click:

Lower	Middle	Upper
<p>Question: What is a King? What is a Kingdom?</p>	<p>Question: What do you think it means to be a good King?</p>	<p>Question: What type of King would you like to be your ruler? What characteristics would they have?</p>

Lower	Middle	Upper
<p>Answers: <i>A King is a ruler, a King is powerful, a King has subjects, a King reigns, a King is the boss, a King wears a crown, a King is rich etc.</i> <i>A Kingdom is the place where a King or Queen is in charge of, a Kingdom is full of subjects, a Kingdom can be happy if the King is nice, etc.</i></p>	<p>Answers: <i>A good King is kind, a good King is powerful, a good King is fair, a good King thinks of others etc.</i></p>	<p>Answers: <i>Personal response – probably a King who is kind/respectful/ generous/ makes good rules etc.</i></p>



Slide 3

Key Question:
 What type of King is Jesus?

- There is no need to draw out too many answers to this question as the rest of the assembly will look at it in detail.
- Introduce the short film – explain that there is a story all about some Kings and the village they ruled and that at the end of the story, there will be a time of discussion about the story.

2. Story – King of Hearts

Timing: 6 mins

A short storybook film called The King of Hearts.



Slide 4

Play the film

3. Response to Story / Discussion

Timing: 5 mins

The teacher breaks open the story of The King of Hearts with the children, helping them to relate the King in the story to Jesus, and understanding why Jesus is a good 'King of Hearts'.



Slide 5

(Holding screen)

Slide 6

- The focus of the following questions is to allow children to respond personally to the story.
- One key point to draw out would be that although the villagers thought a different King would make them happy, in the longer term it made them miserable. For example, the thought of riches and parties was attractive at first but didn't last (Kings of Diamonds and Clubs) and the King of Spades just brought fear and mistrust to the village.
- The questions offered are for all age groups – all questions need to be posed – direct them to the most appropriate group of children. Each question will appear with one click.



Lower	Middle	Upper
<p>Question: What happened to the villagers when the King of Spades was the ruler?</p> <p>Answers: <i>Everyone was afraid and didn't want to leave their homes. People didn't talk to each other.</i></p>	<p>Question: What was the problem when the King of Diamonds was the ruler?</p> <p>Answers: <i>They had lots of money and spent it all on things which made them jealous of each other. They began to hate each other because they were jealous of what other people had. It started out well enough but they soon grew tired of it and it impacted their relationships with each other.</i></p>	<p>Question: What happened to the village during the reign of the King of Clubs?</p> <p>Answers: <i>They all ate and drank so much that they became sick, exhausted and bored of parties. It started out well enough but they soon grew tired of it.</i></p>



Slide 7

Key Questions:

1. Who did the villagers come to realise was the best King?
2. What or who helped the villagers realise that the King of Hearts was the best king?
3. What does the little girl teach the villagers?

Each of the key questions will appear with one click – after questions 1 and 2, the answers will then appear as images with one click.

- The aim of this section is to help children identify the King of Hearts as the 'best' King in the story and that it is the little girl helped them realise this.
- Central to the questions and responses is children describing what the girl teaches the villagers.
- You may want to explain the implicit, underlying message which is that we need others to help us discover what is good, true and beautiful. Explain that sometimes people who seem unimportant actually reveal life's most important lessons and that in the story, the little girl shows the villagers the importance of faithfulness, trust, perseverance and having an open heart.
- You could also explain that the girl remains happy because she keeps the King of Hearts as part of her day to day life and that the King of Hearts always welcomes her even though he's not the ruler of the village.



Slide 8

Key Questions:

1. What does the King of Hearts show and offer to the villagers when they go to see him in the prison?
2. Who does the King of Hearts remind you of?

- To start this section, ask four children to come to the front of the space and hold the words listed in Appendix 1. (The words highlight some words associated with both the King of Hearts and Jesus.) Ask the children key question 1 and why they think these words are being displayed. (This question will appear on Slide 8 when you click once.)
- Lead into key question 2 (this question will appear on Slide 8 when you click again). Explain that the King of Hearts is like Jesus who offers us forgiveness, love, welcome, invitation (to a relationship with Him).



- Depending on how the discussion flows, it may be worth recapping on the story and the fact that:
 - the villagers fall on their knees and beg forgiveness
 - they beg for the King's mercy
 - the lock breaks apart
 - the prison door opens
 - the villagers look up and see him smiling at them
 - the village becomes more beautiful than it was before.

Slide 9

Key Question:

Why would Jesus be a good King of your heart?

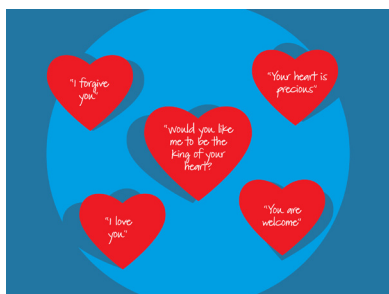
The key question and some suggested answers will appear with each click on Slide 9. The final answer is 'Jesus helps us'.

- The key to this section is enabling children to connect with the fact that Jesus is a King worth inviting into their hearts!
- Explain that we all have a heart and our hearts are a very precious, special place. Our hearts are the very centre of who we are and it is the place where Jesus lives, if we give him some space and don't lock him out!
- Also, it is worth explaining that there are many good things that we have in our hearts but that sometimes other 'Kings' can take up space in our heart – perhaps like the villagers when the Kings of Clubs, Diamonds and Spades were ruling.
- We can have jealousy, greed and fear in our hearts sometimes. This means we don't have space for all the good, precious things and sometimes we don't even have space for Jesus.
- Explain that when Jesus is King of our hearts, we can be happy and peaceful when he is King; he loves us and so he's a good King; he forgives us; he helps us to know God's love; he guides us.

4. Prayer

Timing: 2 mins

This final section is focussed on self-reflection and giving the children the opportunity to invite Jesus to be King of their hearts.



Slide 10

Music will play on the first click.

Key Question:

Jesus stands at the door of your heart and is asking if you will invite him in. What will you say?

There are two possible ways to lead this section.

- **Option 1**, you can lead the children in a guided meditation (**Appendix 2**) with the music playing on Slide 10 or:
- **Option 2**, you can use Slide 10 and the questions below to prompt self-reflection.

Some suggested prompts for **Option 2**:

These prompts are led as if it is the voice of Jesus speaking to each child and it is good to speak slowly and take time to pause on each question.

- **“I forgive you”** – Jesus forgives you. Is there anything you want to ask forgiveness for?
- **“I love you”** – Jesus loves you and everything about you. Can you hear him speaking these words to you?
- **“You are welcome”** – Jesus always welcomes you. Can you think of a time when you have been worried that you might not be welcome? Let Jesus welcome you now.
- **“Your heart is precious”** – Hear Jesus speaking these words to you directly “Your heart is precious, Sarah; Your heart is precious, James etc.’



- **“Would you like me to be the King of your heart?”** – This is the key point of the assembly so allow time for the question to ‘breathe’ and emphasise that children need to make a response in their hearts to this question.

Slide 11

Music will continue to play for this concluding prayer.

Invite the children to look at the screen and explain that you will say a prayer now and you can join in the words afterwards. The words below will appear on the screen with each click. After the prayer, conclude the assembly and re-affirm the invitation children have made for Jesus to be King of the Hearts.

Thank you Jesus that you are the best King we could ask for.

(click once to show words and repeat with children)

Thank you that you want to be with us in our hearts.

(click once to show words and repeat with children)

Thank you that you love us and will always be with us.

(click once to show words and repeat with children)

We invite you to be the King of our hearts.

(click once to show words and repeat with children)

Help us to follow your ways and live well in your Kingdom.

(click once to show words and repeat with children)

Amen.



Slide 12

Assembly ends – Slide 12 can be used as a ‘holding’ screen.

Credits

This resource has been produced by:
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Ten:Ten Resources

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