

The Life and Faith of Queen Elizabeth II

A Lectio for Families Special

In response to the sad announcement about the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we will be focusing our prayers on the passing of one of the world's most famous and faithful Christian leaders.

Pause

We start by pausing and taking a deep breath:

In and out.

In and out.

We remember that God is here, and so together we prepare ourselves to be with God.

Pause

Prayer of Welcome

King of Kings, we give You thanks today for the life and faith of Your servant, our sister, Elizabeth. As people around the world remember her life, may we be inspired to live for You and serve others for as long as we may live.

Rejoice and Reflect

Today, we rejoice that one day, we will all see God, using some words from the book of Job...

*I know that my Defender lives.
And in the end he will come to show that I am right.
Even after my skin has been destroyed,
in my flesh I will still see God.
I will see him myself.
I myself will see him with my own eyes.
How my heart wants that to happen!*

Job 19:25–27 (NLT)

On Christmas Day 1952 when the new Queen, Elizabeth II, was just 26 years-old, she delivered her first Christmas message to the world:

*'Pray for me,' she asked, 'that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.'**

It was a prayer that God answered. Six months later, on the day that she was officially crowned Queen, she promised: to govern well – to be a good leader, to maintain justice and mercy, and to profess the gospel of Christ – to live life like Jesus. She faithfully kept these promises for seventy years, until the day she died.

Let's press pause and talk about today's question, which is: What promises have we made? How faithfully have we kept them?

Pause now

Ask

Queen Elizabeth was a mother, a grand-mother and a great grand-mother. Let's whisper the names of the members of her family that we can remember, and pray for them.

Lord Jesus, there will probably be a lot of pressure and attention on the Royal Family right now. We ASK You to draw close to them – give them strength, and comfort them as they mourn.

Pause and pray

Let's also pray for Archbishop Justin Welby, the leader of the worldwide Church of England, as he prepares to lead Queen Elizabeth II's funeral

Loving God, we ASK You to give Justin Welby the right words to say... words of hope for those who feel lost, words of comfort for those who feel sad. Help him to point people to Jesus – just like Queen Elizabeth II did for 70 years.

Pause and pray

Yes

As we read the Bible again, let's listen for a word or a phrase that the Holy Spirit might want to say to us from today's verses.

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What word or phrase stood out from today's Bible verses?

Tell each other

Yes Prayer

Lord Jesus, some of us feel sad, some of us feel confused, some of us even feel a little bit scared. Whatever we're feeling today, we offer it to You. And we say YES to You, as we remember Your promise that death isn't the end.

[Jesus said] I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die...

John 11:25–26 (NIVUK)

Closing Prayer

Let's put a hand on our heart.

Father God, fill us with Your love. Help us to love You, and everything that You've made.

Let's point to our eyes.

Lord Jesus, help us to see You, and to see others the way that You see them too.

Let's point to our ears.

Holy Spirit, help us to hear You, and give us courage to do what You say.

Amen!

This devotional was originally posted on Friday 9 September 2022 on the Lectio for Families app.

* <https://www.royal.uk/queens-first-christmas-broadcast-1952>