**2. The Fantasy Feast**

*There is an accompanying PowerPoint for this assembly*

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| **Age range:** Primary |
| **Theme:** This term, we are thinking about leaders, leading and following – and begin this theme with an invitation to a Fantasy Feast, bringing a guest who really inspires you. The invitation is for children and adults in your school community – but it’s not for real! (unless you want to make it so, one lunchtime, but maybe without the fantasy guests!) |
| **DiamondHow does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?**This week, we are featuring the concept of welcome, revisiting an idea that we used in last term’s themes, and introducing the idea of people who might inspire us, kicking off our themes for this term. You may wish to feature some people who inspire your school community and live out your school’s vision and values. |
| **Resources:** * The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
* Print out invitations to place on each adult’s seat. Children will be given time to think and respond within the assembly. You need to think who you would invite and include their picture / info about them onto the blank slide (4)
* You may decide that some of the choices of your school community bear further investigation, so you could follow this collective worship with some storytimes, or other times of worship, featuring some other people’s choices – especially if it encourages other leaders in your community!
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| Door Open**Gathering:** * **Slide 1:** This term, we are thinking about leading, leaders, and followers – and will find out about and learn from the lives of different leaders from across the ages.
* **Slide 2:** Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. The greeting comes with BSL signing, you can view the demos using links under the slide.

**Leader:** As we share these stories of leaders…**ALL:** May we follow their example in **thoughts** and **words** and **actions**. |
| Puzzle**Engaging:** * **Slide 3: An invitation….** I wonder….. If I was to hold a very special banquet – that’s a big party with FOOD!! – who might you invite to come with you? Your guest needs to be someone who inspires you, whose example you follow….and it can be anyone from any point in history, or even someone from a story!
* While you [the children] think who they might invite, I’m going to tell you a bit about who I would invite and why, then I’ll ask the adults here to share their thoughts, because they’ve had a little more time to think about it than all of you! *[Invite adults to share their ideas, include yourself in this – hopefully this will help to guide children’s thinking]*
* **Slide 4: Who is your inspiring guest of honour?** [Add your choice to this slide. You’ll see who I [Rachel] have chosen – and why, to get you started, on this slide.] Talk about why you have chosen them and what you find inspiring about this person, as this will help other adults – and the children] Then share together the responses from a selection of children.
* Over this term, we are going to be learning from the lives and examples of any different leaders – including our new **King, Charles III,** as he is formally crowned at his coronation next weekend. But for today, we’re going to start where we often start in our times together, with a story about Jesus, and a story that he told….
* **Slide 5: The Feast**

The story Jesus told was about a feast – and some guests, not unlike the fantasy guests we’ve just been talking about. As with all of Jesus’ stories – called parables – there is a hidden meaning about what it’s like in God’s Kingdom. It might help you to know that people were often surprised by who Jesus chose to spend time with: he didn’t choose important people in the town or celebrities, but chose poor people, tax collectors and sinners – the people who others often ignored. As we share this story together, there is a part for you to join in. When I say the words **you’re invited to a feast** I want you to say **‘Yes – YOU!!!!’** and when I say **NOT ME!,** you can respond by saying **‘I can’t come!’** [you could add some actions to this if you’d like!] Follow the script on p. 4, which follows pictures in the PowerPoint**Slide 15:** Before we take time to be still and think, let’s have a few minutes to think and TALK! **…. I wonder how the master felt to have people say no to his invitation?...****…I wonder how the people who did come to the feast felt about being in the master’s house?** [talk together about your ideas] |
| Thought bubble**Slide 16: Responding (words for worship):** **….in the stillness of this moment, let’s be quiet and think…..** ….We’ve heard a story from Jesus that he told to some people who were gathered for a meal….**….I wonder what you think Jesus wanted his listeners to learn from this story about God’s Kingdom?...and about who’s important to God?....****….I wonder how Jesus showed this to the world in the way that he lived?....****Slide 17:** I’m going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now. If you’d like to pray too, then we’re going to recycle a prayer from one of our assemblies last term: join in with the words **‘we are all welcome here’**… I will also give you some space to think each time. So, let’s pray.God who welcomes all, Whenever we see someone who looks left out….*[leave a pause]*Help us to remember, **‘We are all welcome here’**Whenever we feel that no-one notices us…. *[leave a pause]*Help us to remember, **‘We are all welcome here’**Whenever someone new or someone different joins our class….*[leave a pause]*Help us to remember, **‘We are all welcome here’**God, in your Kingdom, help us to remember, **‘We are all welcome here’****Slide 18: Amen.** **Slide 19:** We don’t usually have anything after we’ve had our quiet reflection time, but I want to just go back to the beginning of our time together today. We started our time together thinking about people who inspire us, the leaders we look up to.Over this term, we are going to spend time thinking about some leaders from across history who have lived lives that have inspired people to live better. We hope that we will learn from their example, and be better leaders ourselves.*[Optional: In our day, as in Jesus’ day, leaders can sometimes let us down – or not always be people that we can look up to. That’s also something we will talk about]* |
| **Sending: Slide 20****Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead…**All: May our school be a place of welcome for all.** |
| **To listen to / sing:** [Life is always better — POP UK](https://www.popuk.org/membership-songs#block-yui_3_17_2_1_1670773521195_6485708) or [Together](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiygQUPfCGI) (NBD) |
| **\*\*Reflective activity:** Put out some special paper on which children can write invitations: they can make up their own context e.g. ‘you are invited to play with me in the playground tomorrow playtime’, or ‘you’re invited to sit with me at lunchtime tomorrow’. (NB You may need to make a list of suitable invitations of welcome so that pupils don’t invite everybody to something that causes an issue for your parents!)There is also a reflective card to put in your classroom to help your children to keep thinking, reflecting and/or praying. |

***It’s YOU!!!***

**Slide 6:** Wherever Jesus went, people would follow – for all sorts of reasons. It didn’t matter who they were, Jesus welcomed everybody and he wanted people to know that the same was true of God’s Kingdom.

And so, one day, he told this parable, to the people at a feast that he’d been invited to!…..

**Slide 7:** A man gave a big banquet and invited many people: he wrote each an invitation saying…

**You’re invited to a feast –** ***‘Yes – YOU!!!!’***

**Slide 8:** He sent his servant out with the invitations: **You’re invited to a feast –** ***‘Yes – YOU!!!!’***

But one by one, the people who’d been invited all made excuses:

**Slide 9:** ‘I’ve just bought a field and I must go and look at it right away,’ said one. **‘Not me! – *‘I can’t come!’***

**Slide 10:** ‘I’ve just bought some new oxen for my plough and I must go and try them out’ replied another. **‘Not me! – *‘I can’t come!’***

**Slide 11:** ‘I’ve just got married,’ replied a third. **‘Not me! – *‘I can’t come!’***

And so the excuses went on…. **‘Not me! – *‘I can’t come!’***

**Slide 12:** The servant went back to his master and told him all that had happened. His master was sad….and a little angry.

So, he sent his servant out with the same invitation: **You’re invited to a feast –** ***‘Yes – YOU!!!!’***

**Slide 13:** But this time, he told him to go out into the streets and invite the poor, the homeless, and the lonely, and say to them: **You’re invited to a feast –** ***‘Yes – YOU!!!!’***

**Slide 14:** And the master’s house was full!

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| You are invited to a FEASTIf you could invite someone inspiring to join you, who would it be? | You are invited to a FEASTIf you could invite someone inspiring to join you, who would it be? |
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***‘You’re invited to a feast – yes, YOU!!!’***

**Think about the people who came to the man’s feast. Think how they must have felt.**

**Talk about why some people feel left out. How does it feel?**

**Invite someone different to play with you today, maybe someone who sometimes feels left out. Or find another way of your own to be welcoming.**