

Messy Church at home

May – Created for Community

It may seem odd to be thinking about community at this time when we can't get out into the community and we can't see other people, but this is a good time to reflect on values that are important to us and to think of new ways to try to connect with people.

Learn

Read the story of the creation of the world and the creation of humans. It can be found in Genesis 2;4-7 and 18-22.

Use a children's bible or see the story in resources below or watch this clip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTgDs>

Then read or watch the next part of the story from Genesis 3:1-13

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5T_bzDWMxc

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7TDvJrjz0>

Isn't it amazing that God chose to make our wonderful world! But even more amazing is that he made people! God made Adam and then made Eve so he wouldn't be alone and he gave them the whole of creation to look after!

The story tells us that nothing bad happened until the serpent deceived Adam and Eve into eating the fruit of the tree of good and evil and they realised they could make choices about how they behaved. All through history people have been making a mixture of good and bad choices. But our choices don't just affect us, they affect other people. Living in community means considering how our actions will affect other people. This is really important at the moment during this period of social isolation – though it isn't really social isolation, because we can still be in contact with other people, just not physically close, and there are plenty of ways we can show love and make good choices that please God.

Worship

Here are some song clips of some of our favourite Messy Church songs that talk about God's wonderful creation. Why not dance and sing along?

Our God is a Great big God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-424MpB_pd0

He's got the whole world in his hands <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDBJNQiugnM>

God's love is bigger than a burger <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=935-QGQ2Cfk>

Create

Have a go at some of these crafts – I have tried to include materials you are likely to have at home. Don't forget to check your recycling bins for useful materials. (Pictures of what your finished crafts might look like are in resources)

1 Child of God bracelets

You need: empty toilet roll or kitchen roll tubes, scissors, felt tips or paints, stickers, sweet wrappers or other coloured bits of recycled materials.

What to do: Cut down the long side of the tube to create a cuff that will go around your wrist. Write Child of God on the outside and decorate with colours, stickers....

Think about it: what does it mean that everyone is part of God's family, and that we have "brothers and sisters in Christ"? How should that affect how we behave?

2. The fire of fellowship

Think about it: You know that a fire needs three things to keep burning – What does friendship or fellowship need? (Fellowship is a word that describes the special friendship that followers of Jesus have together.)



You need: white paper or card; brown paper, tissue paper in fire colours; glue, scissors, pens

What to do: Take a piece of white card. Using the tissue, make flames and stick them on. Cut out rectangles in the brown to be the logs. Write on them the things that keep the flames of fellowship and friendship burning.

3.Walking colours

We often use the language of journey to describe our lives with Jesus. We talk about our "walk with God" or our "faith journey". In this craft, something moves!

You need: glass jam jars; water; food colouring; paper towels or a bandage or strip of white material

What to do: Fill the jars with water and put a different colour in each one – you may be able to do some colour mixing to make the colours of the rainbow. Stand them close together in a row and put paper towel between the jars.

Talk about it: Watch the colours flowing together and talk about how we can influence each other's lives for the better.

4. Walk with Jesus

Warning -This one is messy! Maybe do it in the garden!

You need: a long roll of paper (maybe some old wallpaper or you could use some recycled wrapping paper or packaging); paint, something to put the paint in that is big enough for your feet!

What to do: Go barefoot! Step in the paint and make a trail of footprints along the paper. Get as many members of your family to do this as possible!

Talk about: Look at the different colours and sizes of the prints. Talk about how we are all different but walking along the same path. How can we keep each other on the right path?

5. Raise your hand

You need: a large piece of paper, decorative paper (or decorate your own), pens, scissors, glue, felt tips

What to do; On the paper, write "Raise your hand if you're a child of God!". Draw around your hand and wrist (to about half way down your arm so they look like long gloves). Cut out and stick on around the edge of the paper.

Talk about; What does it mean to you to be a child of God as well as a child of your parents? Raising your hand means letting others know that you are a child of God. How can you do this? Is this a hard or an easy thing to do?

6 Creation collage

You need; Paper, pens, paints, pictures to cut out

What you do: Be creative and make a collage of the creation. You could separate the paper into six, one for each day...don't forget to add the humans!

Talk about: God made the world perfect, but it isn't perfect now. What has gone wrong and why? What can we do to try to repair our world?

7 Looking out for others

You need; outlines of glasses (see resources); pens, crayons or pencils.

What you do: decorate the glasses frames. Write on the lenses things you can do to "look out" for others during this pandemic.

Talk about how we all play a part in keeping each other safe.

Pray

You could use this prayer hands idea to help you pray.

Prayer Hands



Summary

We have been thinking about how we are part of the wonderful creation that God made. God didn't make us to be in "our own little world" but part of his big world. That means we are part of one big family and our choices in life affect other people as well as ourselves, so we need to think about the impact we are having on other people and the planet and not live selfishly.

During the pandemic, we need to be especially careful of how our choices could affect others – we need to keep ourselves and others safe. It is also an opportunity for us to help those who have needs because they cannot leave their homes, or they are frustrated because they can't do some of the things that give meaning to their lives, or they are lonely. Talk about how you might do that as a family.

Let's remember though, that God loves us all and he will listen anytime we want to tell him how we feel, or we want to ask him to help us or someone we love. Sometimes he uses us to be the answer to someone else's prayer – when that happens it is really special.

So stay safe and enjoy getting to know God better. Please upload pictures onto our Messy Church on Overslade Facebook page.

Resources

Bible readings

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth^(a) and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶but streams^(a) came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God formed a man^(a) from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam^(a) no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs^(a) and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib^(a) he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

(Genesis 2;4-7 and 18-22.)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also

gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

12The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Genesis 3:1-13)



