

Messy Church at home

July

Hello families,

So sorry we are not in a position to hold our annual barbecue. I don't know when we will be able to use the hall again, or when it will be safe to have Messy Church again. I do hope it will be soon. In the meantime, I am sending another Messy Church session for you and your family to engage with.

Learn

Christians worship God – whom they cannot see, but whom they learn to recognise in the world around them. Today's story happened a few days after Jesus died on the cross. Two friends were on a journey talking about how sad they felt about the events of the last few days. Then a stranger joined them... they didn't know who it was, but then he did something that made them sit up and look.

Read the story in Luke 24:13-35

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmmTWQn95xQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vepBqHvZ0Xs> (This is a much longer clip 31minutes)

Reflect

The friends "had their eyes opened" and they recognized Jesus. Have you ever been in a situation where God "opened your eyes" and you recognized him in that situation?

Worship

Here is a song to help us think about this month's theme called Walking with Jesus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2VVE9USmxx>

You might enjoy this clip called Blessing that was recorded in lockdown (This version is sung by children)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w>

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.



1. Make a loaf of bread

You could use the recipe in resources, or buy a loaf mix from the supermarket.

Share the bread with your family, and retell the story of The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus.

Talk about: Why didn't Jesus friends recognise him at first? What was it that made them recognise him? How do we recognise Jesus in the situations we are in?

2. Place mats

You need: coloured sheets of paper; scissors; felt pens; glue (if you have a laminator, you can make the placemats more durable)

What to do: cut out knife, fork, spoon and plate shapes. Write on the mat **I'm thankful for..** and on the plate, write things you are thankful for in different coloured pens.



Let each member of the family decorate their own placemat.

Talk about: What special meals have you had as a family? What did you eat? Why do you remember them? Have you missed sharing meals with other people during lockdown? Why? What was it about the meal in the story that made it special?

3. Grace Cube

You need: a template for a cube; sheet of graces to copy; colours; glue

What to do: Either write a different grace on each side of the cube or write "Thank you God for..." on each section



and complete the sentence with things you are grateful for. Make up into a cube.

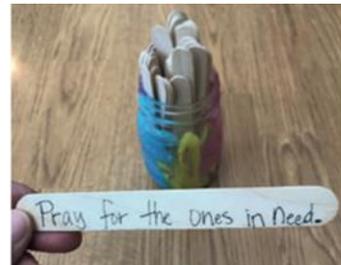
Talk about: at the start of each meal, shake the dice and say the prayer that lands face up.

4. Prayer Jar

You need: empty jam jar, lolly sticks; pens ;(paint)

What to do: Write ideas for prayers on the lolly sticks (for example: people who are ill, people who help us; people who have lost their jobs; an end to covid 19; sorry for..., thank you for...). You could decorate the jar with paint. Then you can pull a stick out of the jar and make up a prayer on that theme.

Talk about things you could pray for as you make the prayer jar.



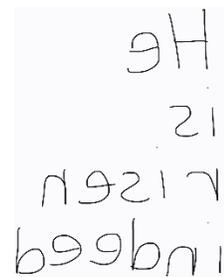
5. Ice cream printing

You need; polystyrene trays from pizzas or meat or...; scissors, pencils, paint, sheets of paper; sponge or roller; card board

What to do: cut four circles (about 8cm across – use a small glass to draw around) from polystyrene. Cut them out. On the first write **He** (but write it backwards so it will be the right way round when printed) ; on the second write **is**; on the third write **risen** on the fourth write **indeed**.



Make a cone shape out of card. Stick it at the bottom of the paper. Cover the circles in your favourite ice cream colours and print one above the other over the cone.



Talk about: How do we know that Jesus is risen?

6. Free play dinner - good if you have smaller children

You need; play food and play cutlery and crockery.

may well be seeing God at work. Can you think of any examples of when you were surprised or touched by someone's words or actions? Did they inspire you to thank God in prayer?

Meals are a special time when we can enjoy spending time together, talking and sharing and listening. Mealtime is a big part of Messy Church and I think we are all missing it at the moment. There are lots of stories of Jesus sharing meals with his friends. I wonder if you can remember any?

The most important meal Jesus shared is known as the Last Supper. Just before he was arrested, tried and killed, Jesus sat down with his friends and asked that when they ate together in the future, they would remember him – the bread they broke would remind them of his body, and the wine would remind them of his blood. The service of Holy Communion held in most churches weekly, is a way to act out this part of Jesus' story.

Bible readings

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ That same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a town named Emmaus. It is about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking, discussing these things, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. ¹⁶ (But the two men were not allowed to recognize Jesus.) ¹⁷ He asked them, "What's this I hear you discussing with each other as you walk?"

The two men stopped, their faces looking very sad. ¹⁸ The one named Cleopas said, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has just happened there."

¹⁹ Jesus said, "What are you talking about?"

They said, "It's about Jesus, the one from Nazareth. To God and to all the people he was a great prophet. He said and did many powerful things. ²⁰ But our leaders and the leading priests handed him over to be judged and killed. They nailed him to a cross. ²¹ We were hoping that he would be the one to free Israel. But then all this happened.

"And now something else: It has been three days since he was killed, ²² but today some of our women told us an amazing thing. Early this morning they went to the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid. ²³ But they did not find his body there. They came and told us they had seen some angels in a vision. The angels told them Jesus was alive! ²⁴ So some of our group went to the tomb too. It was just as the women said. They saw the tomb, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ Then Jesus said to the two men, "You are foolish and slow to realize what is true. You should believe everything the prophets said. ²⁶ The prophets said the Messiah must suffer these things before he begins his time of glory." ²⁷ Then he began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures. He started with the books of Moses and then he talked about what the prophets had said about him.

²⁸ They came near the town of Emmaus, and Jesus acted as if he did not plan to stop there. ²⁹ But they wanted him to stay. They begged him, "Stay with us. It's almost night. There's hardly any daylight left." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ Joining them at the supper table, Jesus took some bread and gave thanks. Then he broke some off and gave it to them. ³¹ Just then the men were allowed to recognize him. But when they saw who he was, he disappeared. ³² They said to each other, "When he talked to us on the road, it felt like a fire burning in us. How exciting it was when he explained to us the true meaning of the Scriptures!"

³³ So the two men got up then and went back to Jerusalem. There they found the followers of Jesus meeting together. The eleven apostles and the people with them ³⁴ said, "The Lord really has risen from death! He appeared to Simon."

³⁵ Then the two men told what had happened on the road. They talked about how they recognized Jesus when he shared the bread with them.

Resources

Bread recipe

Ingredients

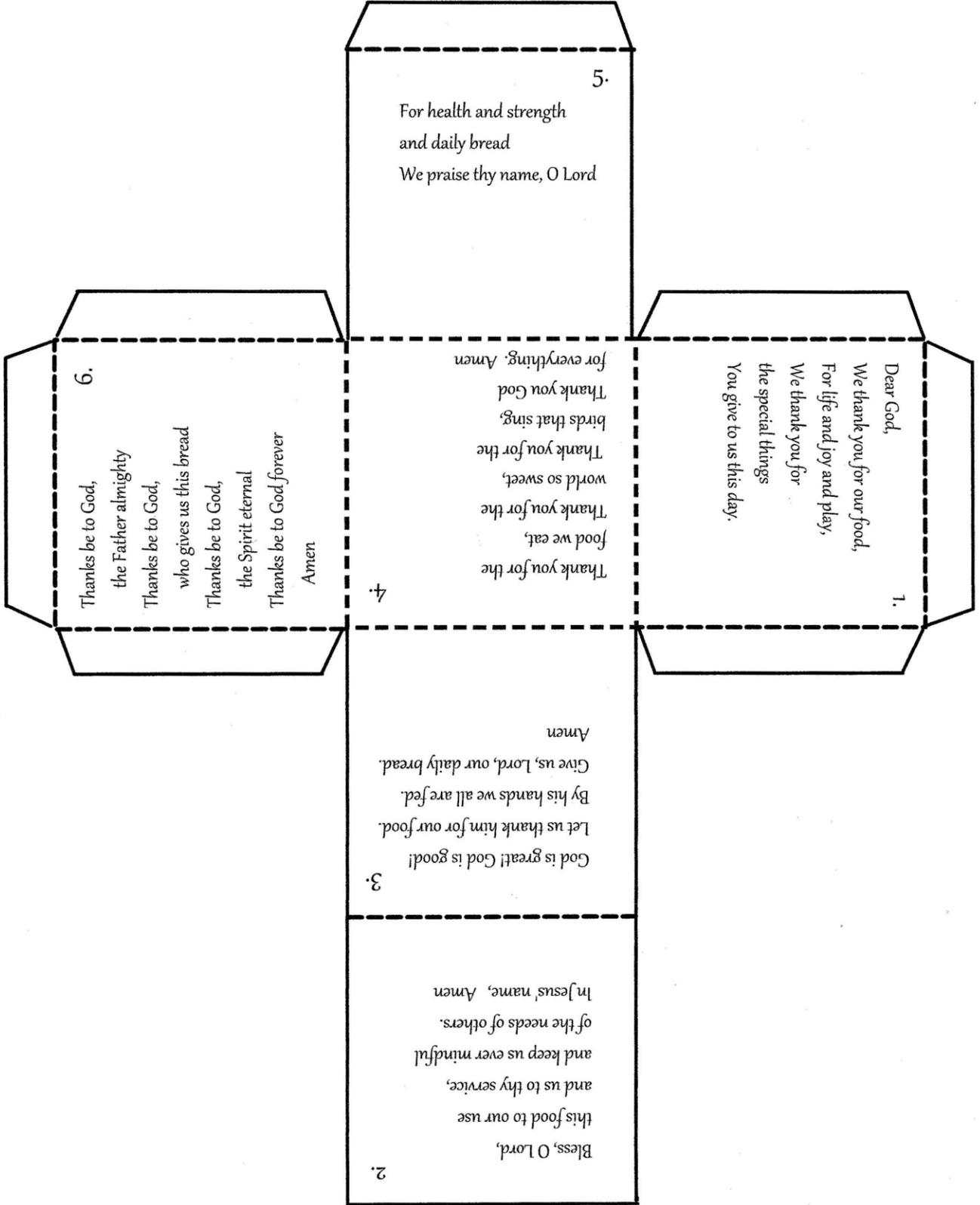
- 500g granary, strong wholewheat or white bread flour
- 7g sachet fast-action dried yeast
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp oil
- 1 tbsp clear honey (or sugar)
- 300ml hand hot water

Method

1. Tip the flour, yeast and salt into a large bowl and mix together with your hands. Stir 300ml hand-hot water with the oil and honey, then stir into the dry ingredients to make a soft dough.
2. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 5 mins, until the dough no longer feels sticky, sprinkling with a little more flour if you need it.
3. Oil a 900g loaf tin and put the dough in the tin, pressing it in evenly. Put in a large plastic food bag and leave to rise for 1 hr, until the dough has risen to fill the tin and it no longer springs back when you press it with your finger.
4. Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Make several slashes across the top of the loaf with a sharp knife, then bake for 30-35 mins until the loaf is risen and golden. Tip it out onto a cooling rack and tap the base of the bread to check it is cooked. It should sound hollow. Leave to cool.

Cube Pattern

Cut on solid lines - Fold on dashed lines



On the Road to Emmaus

Use the word bank below to fill in the blanks and learn what happened on the Road to Emmaus. Some words are used more than once.

_____ and his friend were walking on the road to Emmaus. A _____, whom the disciples didn't recognize, joined them on their journey. The man asked what was wrong and the disciples explained what happened to their Master, _____. The man told the disciples to _____ everything the prophets said and Christ would enter into _____.

When the three men reached _____, the disciples



invited their new friend to have _____ with them. The new friend held a piece of bread, said a _____, broke the bread into pieces, and gave it to the two _____. At that moment, the disciples realized their new friend was actually _____! Immediately _____ disappeared. The disciples were _____ in themselves for not recognizing the man as Jesus.

WORD BANK

DISCIPLES CLEOPAS PRAYER EMMAUS MAN
DISAPPOINTED BELIEVE JESUS DINNER GLORY

The Road to Emmaus

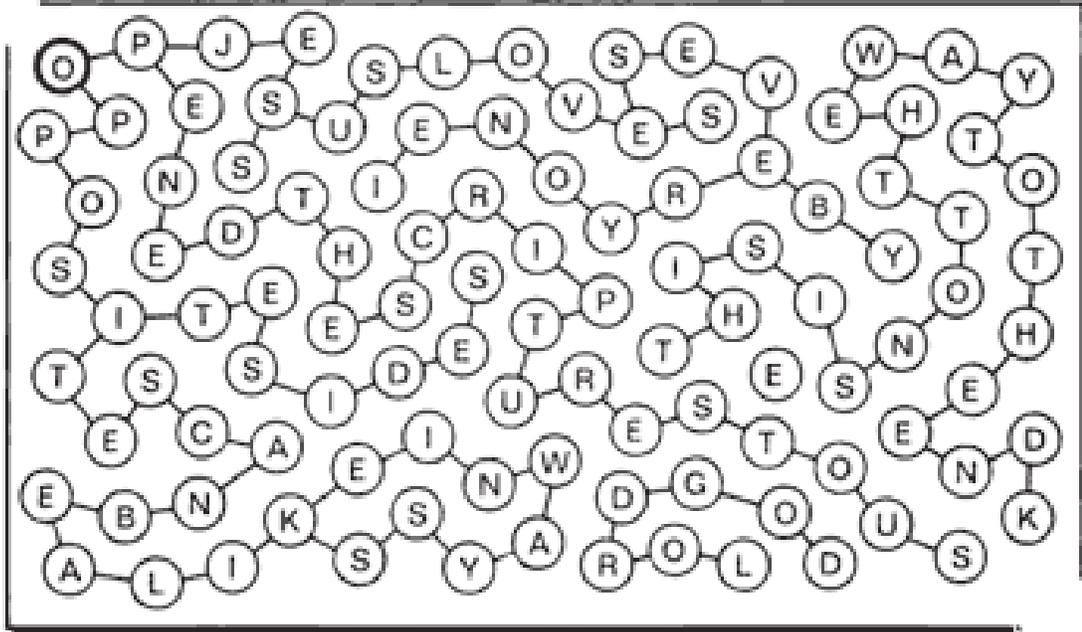
—Luke 24



On the Road to Emmaus

Cleopas and a companion were walking along the road to Emmaus when Jesus joined them. They didn't recognize Him until He revealed himself after the evening meal. Then He disappeared. What was the men's comment afterwards?

The path of circles below will lead you to the answer. Follow the correct path to the end and record all the letters in the spaces provided.



"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and

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(Luke 24:32)