



at HOME

September/October
2020



Uniting Church

..... Christ Centered – All Age – Celebration – Creativity – Hospitality



Hello! How are you? We hope that you are doing ok, enjoying life and that you know God’s peace.

“How Can I help?” Have you noticed that this has become a phrase that is more in use at present? In talking with the Messy Church team, it seems more common in TV shows and even friends are saying more often “how can I help”. Now it could be because others are concerned during Covid, but the saying seems more common than in the past. So why not have it as a theme for Messy Church this month?

In thinking about these words, we can wonder what it means as a follower of Jesus to ask someone “how can I help?” Jesus helped lots of people. Sometimes Jesus asked the person “how can I help” (as in Mark 10:51) and at other times Jesus knew what the person needed. The implication of this question for us is how do we follow Jesus example and help others? In this coronavirus time there seems to be many people who need help and support. Whether it is a friendly smile as you are out and about (physically distanced), or letting others know you care with your eyes, while you wear a mask, or helping with food, or supporting family and friends. As Christians we respond to Jesus’ example and ask “how can I help’.

Our story in this Messy Church at Home is about a group of friends who problem solved and bought their sick friend to Jesus in a very innovative way!

We hope you enjoy this Messy Church at Home.

God Bless

Messy Church Team

Getting ready for Messy Church at Home:

One of the joys of putting together Messy Church at home is getting creative with the activities and images used. This month finding an image for the theme ‘how can I help?’ was challenging, so the finger faces with a wooden hand cross on various backgrounds is what we came up with.



What symbols or pictures do the words “how can I help?” suggest to you? Invite members of your household to set up a worship center focus about “how can I help?” You could try creating and taking a photo like we did, or find “helping pictures” in magazines, or do a drawing or find helping implements and tools (spoon, mixing bowl) and set them up in a display.

Your symbols or pictures could be set around a cross or a battery candle. Use the candle to begin your Messy Church at Home time together by “lighting” the candle and someone saying: “We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus help us to love you more”

Then use our Messy Church at Home greeting and say to each other “welcome to Messy Church, we are glad you are here”. 😊

Celebration

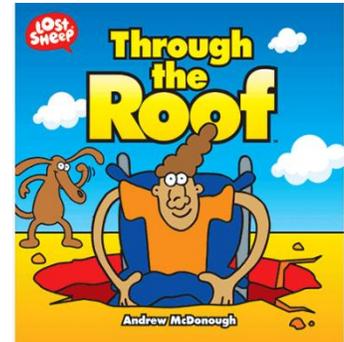
Through the Roof

Here is an amazing story about friends that helped someone to see Jesus

Read the story from the Bible - Mark 2:1-12

Or read 'Through the Roof' by Andrew McDonough. You could also watch the story on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2hlyeXWEjE>

You can access a" Andrew McDonough's stories at lostsheep.com.au



Reflection

Have you got friends who ask you "How can I help?" Maybe you need a hand with something or you needed someone to care of you when you aren't feeling well? The friends in the story were very caring. They knew that if they could only get their friend to Jesus – Jesus would help him. But when they got to the house, it was too crowded with people listening to Jesus. Houses in those days were made of mud brick, but the friends were also ingenious so they found way to put their friend in front of Jesus. Imagine being below in the room and having bits of mud brick falling from above! Maybe Jesus smiled at the friends as they lowed their friend down to him. Jesus was not upset that they interrupted his talk. He knew the man needed to be made well. He did something extra, too. Not only did he heal the man, but he also forgave the man's sins.

The friends did what it took to get their friend to Jesus. That is a lesson for us too. We need to care enough for our friends to tell them about Jesus. Sometimes it is not easy, there are challenges, and it will take persistence. But introducing others to Jesus and sharing your faith Jesus asks us to do.

Talk about: What do you think about when you hear the bible readings?
What does it tell you about God and you?

Five Finger Prayer: Do a hand print or draw around your fingers. Make your own finger prayer, or use this as a family to pray for others and yourselves.

**Tallest – Pray for those who lead –
for government, business,
industry, farmers, administrators.**

**Pointer – those who point you in the
right direction, who teach instruct and
heal. For ministers, chaplains, health
professionals who give guidance &
support**

**Thumb – closest to you
Pray for your family
& friends**

**Ring finger – surprisingly it is the
weakest finger. Pray for those who are
sick, the poor and disadvantaged, those
in trouble or in pain.**

**Pinky – pray for yourself. For how
God can use you to help other**



Creativity

How can I help HAND

Do this activity outside in the shade.

You will need: Casting plaster or Plaster of Paris
(available at hardware stores)
Disposable glove
Water
Mixing bowls and spoon or stick
Small bowl covered in cling-wrap



What to do:

- Mix the plaster as per instructions. I used about 500g of plaster
- Fill the disposable glove with the mixed plaster
- Ensure air bubbles are squashed out of the plaster
- Twist or tie the top of the glove
- Place in hand in the small bowl. Arrange the hand to shape
- Leave to dry
- Paint and decorate

To note: The finished plaster will take a couple of days to dry out

To clean up: don't pour plaster down the drain. Leave it to harden and put in the bin.



Talk about: How you received a helping hand, or given someone a helping hand.

Rocky Road



How can I help? Enjoy making this yummy favorite to give to someone you care about.

You will need: 300g Chocolate
125g butter
2tbs golden syrup
Broken biscuits or Tim Tams
Marshmallows & raspberry lollies,
almonds
Add other ingredients you like.

In a bowl (1) add broken biscuits, marshmallows, lollies nuts etc. have ready to add to chocolate mix.

In a microwaveable bowl (2) put, chopped butter, broken chocolate, golden syrup. Heat mixture 30 seconds at a time- mixing well after each time. Mix bowl 1 & 2 ingredients together. Put in patty pans or in a baking paper lined tray to set.

Talk about a time when someone cared for you in a life's rocky moment.

Creativity

How can I help - SOCIAL JUSTICE

As a family or household, talk about what social justice means to you.

Are there projects or issues you care about? How do you show you care? Make a list and put it on your fridge or in your worship focus space and pray for these projects and issues.

Talk About: Is there something you as a family/household could make a project for social justice to do over the next month?

Resource: The Uniting Church in Australia (and other churches) have social justice projects and groups that you can join or be a part of. Check out <https://unitingjustice.org.au/>



Make a POSTER or DIARAMA

about an issue you care about. Take a picture and send to your Messy Church team



Creativity

Hand Print Animals

You will need: Blank paper
Water based paint
Brushes
Felt pens or markers

What to do:

- Paint your hand with paint
- Print your hand onto paper
- Wait until the paint dries
- Use your imagination to create animals/birds/people/.....

Talk about:

Animals that you care about.



Felt Hearts

Materials 2 colours of felt
Bling/stars/sequins
Ribbon for hanging

Tools Glue
scissors
Pens

How: Cut 1 pattern from each coloured felt
Following the pattern.
(6cm wide X9cm long marking weaving
slots at 2cm intervals in each piece.
Use scissors to cut the slots.
Weave the slots together
Glue to keep the piece together
Glue the hanger in place
Decorate



We remember those people who are still in Coronavirus lockdown. Maybe if you know someone give them a call or send a felt heart.

Hospitality

Usually Messy Church finishes with a meal together. At Messy Church, the hospitality offered reflects the welcome and hospitality that God offers us as members of God's family.

This month plan a meal together that reflects the care you give to each other in your family or household. It might be a meal that you make together, or have individual members bring different parts of a meal. It might be a meal that you share with others to show you care for them. Is it time for a bar-b-que? What about a Zoom meal with another family?

Give thanks for the food together with this grace or say your family grace.

*We thank you God, for the food before us, the shelter around us,
the family beside us, and the love you show us. Amen.*



Blessing

As you finish Messy Church at Home here is a blessing to say together.

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
(Hold out your hands as if expecting a present)
And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)
Amen (raise arms)*

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