

## Messy Church – March 2020



'Messy Church logo © The Bible Reading Fellowship 2019.

**Theme: The Easter Story is the biggest miracle ever! God gives us a chance for new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Sometimes we have to go through really bad times but they are not the end of the story.**

**The best news is – that Jesus really lived, that he really died and that he really came back to life again for all of us.**

**Below are some of the activities we would have done with you at Messy Church – you might like to try these at home:**

### **Food activity:**

Edible nests – shredded wheat cereal crumbled with melted choc and formed into nests in a bun case. Put 3 choc eggs in the nest.

Talk about: Easter eggs and new life

### **Decorated Crosses**

You will need: Medium weight card, art materials, glue, scissors, pictures of different crosses to be decorated

Talk about: Why the cross is the most important symbol for Christians. It shows how Jesus died but, most importantly how he rose again and is alive.

### **Cross and butterfly prayers**

You will need: Draw a large cross outline on heavy duty card, butterfly templates on paper/thin card, pens, felt tips or crayons, bluetac or glue.

Using the butterfly templates, children write their name and decorate the butterflies. They then write a 'thank you' prayer on the back and attach them to the cross

Talk about: Mary's surprise when Jesus called her by name after she found the tomb empty. Jesus calls us by name too. He knows us even when we may not recognise him. The butterfly has also emerged from an empty tomb, or chrysalis and is a reminder of our new life through Jesus.

### **Mother's Day/ Thank You cards**

You will need: folded cards for children to decorate – there are many designs to choose from on the internet, or children can design their own

Invite children to make / decorate a card for their mum or a significant carer

Talk about: how we love those who care for us. Jesus loved his friends and family. Even when he was on the cross he asked one of his disciples/friends to care for his mother.

### **Rolling the stone (can be very messy!!)**

You will need: table tennis balls or similar, paint in a variety of colours and lining wallpaper (unpasted), or similar

Roll balls in poster paint, then roll them over paper to leave a pattern.

Talk about: the stone being rolled away from Jesus' tomb

### **Free range picture**

You will need: a large piece of paper, art materials

Work with your child/children to draw yours, his/her favourite part of the Easter story on a big sheet of paper. (it doesn't matter if there are lots of crosses etc)

Talk about: which part of the Good Friday or Easter story is the most important and why people like it best.

### **Songs**

**If you would like to sing look on Utube for the following:**

Our God is a great big God – Cailin Ceolmhar

Wonderful Lord – Duggie Dug Dug

### **Prayer**

**Use the butterfly prayers you made and finish with:**

**Jesus, you came into this world so we would know you. You lived and walked among us. You died and you were buried for us. You overcame death, you overcame the tomb and you have risen. Help us to live each day for you and tell others of your great love and the biggest miracle ever.**

**Amen**