



Authorised Mess — COLOSSIANS

Your details

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Bible book	Colossians
Theme of session	Jesus is number 1, the key to everything, the clue to what everything is about, our greatest treasure, the superhero of superheroes, the head of the church, the beginning of all things. As his disciples, following him is not about keeping rules but about leading a holy God-centered life, and always being thankful.
Notes	We read several different translations of the text. <i>Good as New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures</i> by John Henson (O Books, 2005) gave us many ideas.

Session details

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants/Boys	Superhero capes	Pre-cut fabric cape-shaped templates and decorate with fabric pens/acrylic paints by free drawing/painting or stamping/printing using painting sponges or potato printing. Staple wide ribbon to both sides of neck end to tie loosely around neck.	Cheap plain fabric (bought or donated), fabric pens, acrylic paints, sponges, potatoes, ribbon (recycling centre), stapler.	'...in everything he might have the supremacy' (Colossians 1:18). '...in him all things hold together' (Colossians 1:17). Jesus is our superhero.



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Older participants	The big picture	Decorate seven disks of different coloured card using stamps, stars, crayons/felt pens, and the printed images/words. Link the disks with folded strips of lining paper—so that the seven disks fold on top of one another and then open out to tell the whole story from the beginning to the end (Creation to New Creation).	Pre-cut coloured card disks, foot stamp, Easter stamp, ink pads, metallic stars, printed images to be coloured, crayons, felt pens, glue sticks, printed words. We used these words: Creation, Separation from God, The Promise, Emmanuel God with Us, Easter—Death to Life, The Church, New Creation. This idea was inspired by an illustration from <i>Shaped by the Story</i> by Michael Novelli (Zondervan, 2008, p. 161).	To see that Jesus has been in the story right from the beginning. He is in everything
Girls	Paper dolls	Colour the paper clothes and dress the paper dolls.	Templates for dolls and clothes. Card, paper, felt pens, crayons, scissors. Templates can be found at http://www.makingfriends.com/f_Friends.htm	'Clothe yourselves with... and over all the virtues put on love...' (Colossians 3: 12–14). Each article of clothing has a virtue that Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with, as God's chosen people.



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Anyone and everyone	Key and treasure boxes	Decorate the matchboxes and put a key inside. Stick the verse on the back of the matchbox.	Matchbox blanks (can be purchased from Baker Ross) and pre-laminated keys that will fit inside. Stick-on jewels, sequins, brightly coloured tissue, felt pens and other materials to decorate the matchboxes. PVA, pots and glue spreaders. Pens for labelling matchboxes. Printed verse: Christ is the key to everything you need and he is your greatest treasure.	Christ is the key to everything we need. The greatest treasure we have is Jesus.
Word-based	Looking for 'Jesus'	Using magnifying glasses, see who can find the most occurrences of the name Jesus hidden in the pictures.	Pictures/images with the name of Jesus written in tiny script. Magnifying glasses.	Jesus is the clue to what it is all about.
Food-based	Key-shaped biscuits	Decorate the biscuits with the icing sugar and sprinkles/sweets.	Biscuits (either purchase or bake) in shape of key, icing sugar, bowls, big and little spoons, sprinkles/sweets, small paper plates, pens for labelling plates.	Christ is the key to everything we need.



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Explores global aspect of faith	Paper chain letters	Write please and thank you prayers on strips of paper. Then join together in a chain and hang around a large wooden cross. Talk about Open Doors and people in prison for their faith.	Pre-cut strips of paper, stapler, pens, large (wooden) cross. Information on Open Doors from: http://www.opendoorsuk.org/index.php .	Paul wrote this letter while in chains for his faith. He wrote encouraging things but also careful warnings about how to live in God.
Opens up great art	Clay pendants	Paint the pendants and thread with ribbon so they can be worn.	Pre-made pendants from air drying clay with 'love' written on one side and 'Jesus is no. 1' on the other. Acrylic (quick drying) paints, very thin ribbon.	Jesus is number 1.



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Quiet	Awards and medals	Make medals from the card and get people to add the name of someone they think deserves a medal for 'sticking with it' when it was hard to carry on. Then laminate the medals and thread with ribbon so they can be worn. The medals could be awarded during the celebration time.	A display of medals/awards with newspaper cuttings to go with them—perhaps your congregation could be asked to supply. Pre-cut disks of card (white or silver), silver colouring pens, laminator and laminating sheets, scissors, ribbon. Leave a space on the card to write the name of the person who is to be awarded the medal.	Complete the work, stick with Jesus.
Really messy	Handprint patchwork quilt	Get everyone to put their handprint on a coloured square of paper in a brightly coloured paint. Mount these squares on the bigger square to make a patchwork quilt.	Bright squares of paper (big enough for a handprint), paints, trays, sponges. Larger square of paper (joined strips of lining paper) with 'Christ is the head of Messy Church' written at the top in large print. Glue sticks.	Christ is the head of the church—supreme over all (Colossians 1:18).



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Celebration suggestion

Talk about what you have done—in particular, the cross with chains and the patchwork quilt.

Play out the following drama asking a mum who many of the children know to be a volunteer. The mum starts off dressed in clothes that have bad things written on them—for example, greedy, unkind, rude, etc. Now take these words off and replace by their opposite virtues—for example, generous, kind, polite, etc. Talk about how we don't always feel like being generous or kind, just like we don't always feel like getting dressed or sometimes putting on new smart itchy clothes. But, eventually, these smart itchy clothes become our old favourites. Compare this with trying to live like Jesus wants us to—we have to get on with it whatever we feel like.

Now discuss the awards for those who have 'stuck with it'. You could get the children/or carers to present them and say why.

Song: 'Wonderful Lord' from Doug Horley DVD with signing action—this is very well loved by our Messy Church and seems to induce 'instant worship'. It is also appropriate for this subject.

Meal suggestion

✿ Pizza (round), as world shaped.

Faith in Homes suggestion

Before you sit down to a meal together, send everyone in the family around the house and ask them to look at everything you have—both natural things and manufactured things—who made them? As you eat together, talk about what you saw and what it was made from. Then talk about the fact that even manufactured things can find their source in natural things, which God created. So God is in all things! (This is from an idea in *Theme Games* by Lesley Pinchbeck (Scripture Union, 1993, p. 47).)

Primary School RE idea

KS1: Use the idea of putting on right attitudes when you don't feel like it—get the children to dress up or use a large card cut-out of a child.

KS2: Use the idea 'Seeing the big picture' from *Shaped by the Story*—an interactive walk through a Bible lesson. Get your group to walk the Bible map from Ur to Canaan, to Egypt, back through the Red Sea and into the Promised Land. Then comes exile and dispersal, then return and 400 years of silence before Jesus and the start of church until the new creation.