



# **The Messy Church Magazine**

**January - April 2015**

**Support Material**



# Mealtime cards

## **The Pharisee and the tax collector**

- How many times have you said sorry today?
- Do you find it easy or hard to say sorry? Why?
- How do you think the tax collector in the story felt when God forgave him?

## **Temptation!**

- Have you ever done something that you knew you shouldn't? How did you feel?
- How did you feel when you could have done something bad but didn't?
- How can Jesus help you to make the right choices in your life?
- Is there anything this week that you might be tempted by?

## **Healing Bartimaeus**

- Have you ever been to hospital?
- Why did Bartimaeus keep calling Jesus?
- Do you think praying for people helps them to get well?
- Who looks after us when we are ill?

## **Loving Easter**

- Have you ever had some good news that you couldn't wait to share?
- How do you let your friends and family know that you love them?
- How might you tell other people about how much God loves them?

# Handout sheets

## The Pharisee and the tax collector

We are thinking about how God loves hearing our prayers, no matter what we have done. Jesus teaches us that prayer is a quiet conversation between us and God.

### What are we doing today?

1. Disappearing paper—God takes away our sin.
2. Dressing up—Showing off or being modest?
3. Prayer weaving—Combining our prayers in a beautiful way.
4. Prayer bracelets—Reminding us to talk to God.
5. Low obstacle course—Being humble is not easy.
6. Messy prayers—Saying sorry for messing up.
7. Patchwork prayer shawl—We are all God's children.
8. Chocolate fruit—Sharing is always good.
9. Prayer boxes—Let's remember God's word.
10. God's world—God made the world and he loves us, wherever we live.

## Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

### The Pharisee and the tax collector

#### Take-home idea

Find your local food bank, discuss why food banks are needed and donate some items.

#### Sunday treat

Treasure in heaven: read a Bible story together as a family and talk about it.

# Handout sheets

## Temptation!

Today we are looking at the story of how Jesus was tempted in the desert, and thinking how we can follow his example.

### What are we doing today?

1. Tempting plateful—Avoiding tempting foods helps us stay healthy.
2. Bread rolls—‘People shall not live on bread alone.’
3. Stone noughts and crosses—Helping us think about right and wrong.
4. Skyscraper—How should we respond to a dare to do something dangerous?
5. Giant Jenga—How many questions will be answered before the tower collapses?
6. Sweet temptation—How long can we last out?
7. Globes—The world belongs to God, not the devil.
8. Hanging mobiles—Remembering the story of Jesus’ temptations.
9. Twister®—Do you need someone to rescue you?
10. Worship cubes—There are many different ways to worship God.

## Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

### Temptation!

#### Take-home idea

Jesus said, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God”’ (Matthew 4:4). Why not bake some bread together and take it to someone who would like to find out more about what’s in the Bible?

#### Sunday treat

Each person could be given a sticky note in the shape of lips (any good stationer should be able to provide these). Write on it your prayer of praise to Jesus and stick it on your bedroom wall to remind you that Jesus is to be praised!

# Handout sheets

## Healing Bartimaeus

Today we are looking at Bartimaeus, who kept calling out to Jesus, and how Jesus healed him so he could see. We are thinking about people who are ill and how we can help them feel a little better.

### What are we doing today?

1. Putting the bits together—Working together to find today's theme.
2. Blindfold obstacle course—We need guidance when we can't see the way forward.
3. Changing faces—Bartimaeus met Jesus and was changed.
4. Fingertip pictures—Seeing with our fingertips.
5. Bandage cakes—Helping us heal.
6. Get-well cards—Let's cheer up someone who is unwell.
7. Need an ambulance?—  
Remembering people who help when we are ill.
8. Knee blanket—Together we show we care.
9. Plaster prayers—Holding people in prayer.
10. Listen carefully—Hearing becomes more important when we can't see.

# Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

## Healing Bartimaeus

### Take-home idea

Have a family cake-baking or card-making session. Take cards and/or cakes to people you know who are ill or feeling sad or lonely.

### Sunday treat

Say the names of people you know who are ill and think about them as you pray: *Loving Lord Jesus, these are some of the people we know who are ill. Please help them. Be close to them and let them know you are with them. Amen*

# Handout sheets

## Loving Easter

We are celebrating Easter today, not with bunnies, chicks or eggs but with rocks, crosses, hearts and angels. The Easter story is about the BIG, BIG love God has for every single person, and what he had to do for us to know it.

### What are we doing today?

1. Easter rock cakes—The mystery of the rolling rock.
2. Messy crosses—Jesus died on the cross to sort out our mess.
3. Bead coasters—Crosses and hearts are powerful symbols for Easter.
4. Junk angels—Angels appeared in the empty tomb.
5. Wooden cross—God showed his love through Jesus' death on the cross.
6. Woven placemat—We can celebrate Easter with a special meal.
7. Bead bracelets—Telling the Easter story with beads.
8. The colour of love—Knowing God loves us helps us every day.
9. Easter cards—Invite a friend to the next Messy Church.
10. Matchstick cross—Turning something ordinary into something beautiful.

# Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

## Loving Easter

### Take-home idea

Talk together about who you might invite to the next Messy Church, and then deliver the invitation.

### Sunday treat

Write each family member's name at the bottom of a separate piece of paper. Give one piece of paper to each person (remembering not to give anyone their own sheet), and write down all the things you love about that family member. Fold the top of the paper down so that your comment is hidden from the next person. Keep swapping until everyone has written something about everybody else. Swap the papers back so that you can see what others have said about you.

*Father God, we are amazed that you love us. You love... (now say all the things written on the list that has been given back to you). Use me to tell others about your love. Amen*

# Worship Cube Template

