



Authorised Mess — ZEPHANIAH

Your details

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Church: St Thomas', Lancaster

Bible book	Zephaniah
Theme of session	Theme taken from Zephaniah 3:17: God delights in us.
Notes	

Session details

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Shakers	Decorate the paper with felt tip pens, then wrap it around the crisp tube and fix in place with sticky tape. About half-fill with rice, pasta or macaroni and add the lid, making sure it is stuck down firmly!	Crisp tubes and lids; rice, pasta and macaroni; A4 paper, sticky tape, felt tip pens.	To use in worship during the celebration—we delight in God and he delights in us.
Younger participants	Streamers	Stick pre-cut lengths of ribbon to one end of a lollystick.	Paper/plastic ribbon used for gift wrapping, lollysticks, sticky tape, scissors.	To use in worship during the celebration—we delight in God and he delights in us.



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Older participants	Photo frames	Decorate the photo frame with the mosaic tiles. Hint: put the PVA on to the tile, not the frame, or the glue dries out too quickly.	Wooden photo frames, plastic mosaic tiles (approx 1 cm square), PVA glue, spreaders.	Talk about photos they have at home of the people they love. Suggest that they put a photo of themselves in their frame to remind them that God loves them.
Girls	Mirror cards	Stick a mirror tile in the middle of your piece of card. Stick one of the printed strips above the mirror and one below. Decorate with stickers.	Square mirror tiles (approx 2 cm square), A6 card in a variety of colours, various stickers, PVA glue, spreaders. Paper strips printed with the words 'Made and loved by God'. Paper strips printed with the words 'He delights in me because I'm his'.	To remind us how much God loves us.
Boys	Shields	Cut different lengths of string and stick them to the cardboard shield in different swirls and patterns. Cover the shield with foil so that the string shapes can be seen. Stick a cardboard strip on the back for a handle.	Pre-cut cardboard shield shapes, cardboard strips, foil, thick string, PVA glue, spreaders, sticky tape, scissors.	To think about God as a mighty warrior who saves us, and as our defender who pushes the bad things away from us. Theme also found in Zephaniah 3:17.



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Everyone	Junk modelling	Enjoy making junk models together.	Junk donated from church members' recycling, felt tip pens, labels, scissors, sticky tape, masking tape.	Enjoy being together and remind the children that God enjoys being with us too.
Everyone	Rescue challenge	Place the teddy at one end of the room and everything else at the other end. Get a group of children (and adults) together and tell them they need to go and rescue the teddy. Rules: everyone on the team must get across the room and touch the teddy before they can bring it back. No one is allowed to touch the floor.	Chairs, milk crates, string, long cardboard tubes, scissors, teddy or other soft toy.	God would go to any lengths to rescue us because he loves us.
Food-based	Fruit kebabs	Put pieces of fruit and marshmallow on the kebab sticks, dip into chocolate and eat.	Chocolate fountain, marshmallows; chopped up pieces of fruit, such as apple, tangerine, pineapple, banana, strawberries; kebab sticks, paper plates, wet wipes.	God delights in us just as we delight in yummy food.



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Quiet	Pop-up cards	Make pictures or patterns with the materials available for the pop-up part of the card. When completed, write the card and send it to someone in your family or someone else you love.	A4 card in a variety of colours, offcuts of card, felt tip pens, funky foam, felt, feathers, scissors, glue sticks, sticky tape. Detailed instructions can be found on the Internet by searching 'pop-up cards for kids'.	Share the love God gives us with others.
Really messy	Messy bucket	Put the jelly and other food into the bucket and swirl it around so it looks disgusting. Add the pound coins. The children need to retrieve the coins from the bottom of the bucket, and then get clean!	Bucket, pound coins; jelly, eggs, mud, old pizza and other yucky food; washing-up bowl with warm soapy water and towel.	Talk about the fact that Jesus came and rescued us and washed us clean so we can live with him forever, because he loves us so much.

Celebration suggestion

Show PowerPoint of photos from previous Messy Church on big screens and play 'I want to love like you love' (CD, Spring Harvest, *Kids Praise Party*, No. 3—see www.eden.co.uk for details).

Welcome everyone, ask the children what crafts they've made or what they've enjoyed most, and pray.

Song: 'Mr Cow how do you say to the Lord I love you?' with the shakers and streamers made in the activities (no music but words on big screens—see www.kingsway.co.uk for details).



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Read the big book *I'll Always Love You* by Paeony Lewis and Penny Ives.

Ask the children and grown-ups to talk to the people they came with and to tell each person something they love about them or something about them that's special.

Read Zephaniah 3:17. Remind everyone that God thinks they're special too, and that he loves them even more than our mums or dads or best friends love us.

Song: 'Everlasting God—strength will rise' with actions or shakers and streamers made in the activities (Brenton Brown, *Everlasting God*).

Either cover a cross in paper or lay some paper out in a cross shape. You will need seven volunteers, each with a paper plate with one colour of paint, stationed at different points around the cross. Ask everyone to come and dip their finger in one colour of paint and paint a stripe on the cross, thus creating a rainbow effect and showing that this is how God chooses to see us. Provide pens so they can write their names under their paint stripes (younger children may need help with this).

Song: 'Night song' with actions (Hillsong Kids, *Jesus Is My Superhero*, CD).

Meal suggestion

✿ Party food with jelly and ice cream to follow.

Faith in Homes suggestion

Challenge the families to keep telling each other what they love about each other or the things that make them special, each day until the next Messy Church—and to remember that God loves them even more than that.