



Approaches to discipleship

Mentoring

Aim: To use a structured and relational approach to exploring issues and opportunities in your team's own lives and in your Messy Church to see to what extent the practice helps team members become more confident and effective disciples (and thus run Messy Church more effectively).

The danger of this is that it could become purely action-based or 'external', rather than making space for people to consider the 'internal' aspect of discipleship, especially as Messy teams tend to be pretty practical people. You might want to be brave and work through not just practical Messy Church issues but ones relating to people's own journey with Jesus. There are lots of resources to help inform you.

Suggestions

- Use the GROW model (Goals, Realities, Obstacles, Will): mindtools.com/pages/article/newLDR_89.htm)
- *A Guide to Mission Accompaniment* by Kerry Thorpe (BRF, 2018 – ask Lucy for discounted copies): brfonline.org.uk/products/a-guide-to-mission-accompaniment
- *Mentoring for Spiritual Growth* by Tony Horsfall (BRF, 2014 – ask Lucy for discounted copies). The author may be willing to offer some training and advice: brfonline.org.uk/products/mentoring-for-spiritual-growth-sharing-the-journey-of-faith
- The Coach Model by Keith E. Webb (Active Results LLC, 2012): keithwebb.com/coach-model
 - Connecting and following up the previous meeting
 - What is it you want to take away from our time together? What do you want to work on today?
 - Awareness – New perspectives and insights; what's holding you back?
 - Action steps – What actions can you/will you take to move it forward in the next week?
 - Highlights – What awareness do you have now that you didn't before?

Either mentor in groups of two/three or together as a team. This might mean adding on a 'mentoring time' at the start of each team planning meeting or having a separate mentoring meeting.

Here are some possible starter challenges to process together through this approach, but it will be far better if your team can come up with their own:

- I'd love to talk more about God but I just can't
- I hate praying out loud
- I have no idea what church is meant to be all about
- I'm finding God more at one sort of church service than at another
- I don't know how to read the Bible
- My gifts aren't being used
- I want to be a Christian at work but don't know what that means
- Our Messy Church is low in numbers: we'd like more people to come
- We lose our teenagers as they get to the age of 10–11, but we want to be all age
- We are very stretched for team members; we want a bigger team

- It's hard to talk about God over the activities; we want to be able to do this
- Our celebrations are lacklustre; we want them to be engaging
- We don't have any dads or male carers and we want them to come

Use the Islands Map at the end of each session to talk about what treasure people have uncovered on the different islands. Encourage people to reflect and doodle in their Travel Journal at home and bring it to show the group if they want to next time.