

Get Messy!

May–August 2014

Support material

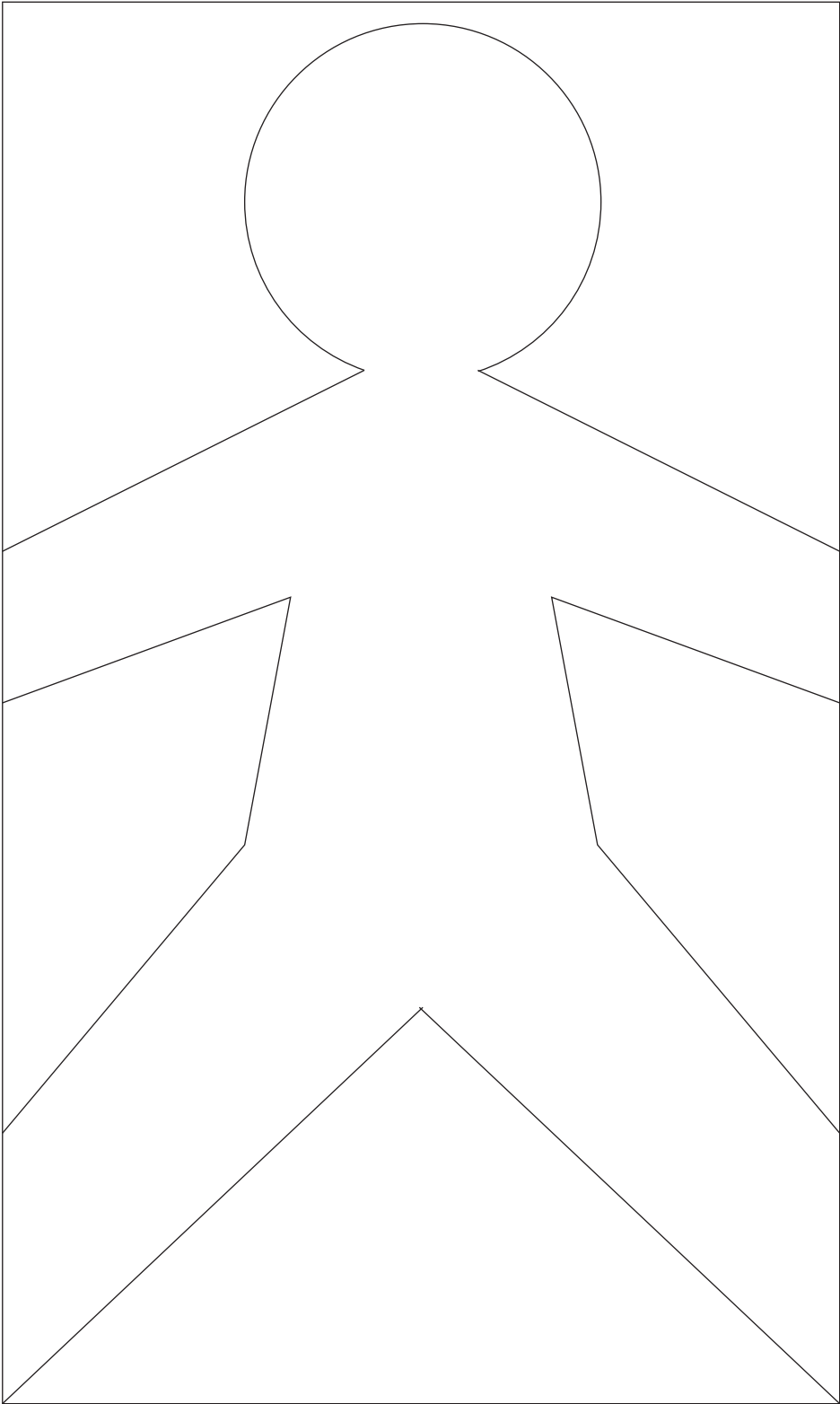


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The Philippian jailer: family cutouts



Mealtime cards

God's power to change

- Can you think of some things that need power to work?
- Can you think of things that help make difficult tasks easier?
- Have you ever asked God to help you with something that you found hard?

The Philippian jailer

- Have you ever visited anyone in prison? What were the jailers like?
- Do you find it easy to praise Jesus in difficult times like Paul and Silas did?
- Do you know the answer to the question, 'What must I do to be saved?'
- Can you find anyone here at Messy Church who has been baptised like the jailer?

The fiery furnace

- What makes a trustworthy friend?
- Who do you trust, and why?
- Have you ever been helped or rescued from a difficult situation?

The woman at the well

- What is your favourite water game?
- What flavour do you like to put in water to drink?
- What would you say to Jesus if he were sitting at the table?
- What do you think Jesus would say to you?

Handout sheet—God’s power to change

We are thinking today about the story of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to help Jesus’ friends. God’s Spirit is a gift for everyone, to help them and give them power to do things that seem too hard.

What are we doing today?

1. Air racing—Race your ball with unseen power.
2. ‘Allsorts’ of faces—God needs allsorts!
3. Plastic-bag kites—A kite for a windy day.
4. Power throwing—How can you use your strength for good?
5. Jelly fun—See water change to jelly.
6. All around the world—The Holy Spirit is for everybody.
7. Gift wrapping—Wrap a gift for someone special.
8. Blackout challenge—Do you need guidance?
9. Help station—What do you need and what help can you give?
10. Butter making—The miracle of shaking!



Handout sheet—The Philippian jailer

Today we're looking at the story of a jailer who found out what it meant to believe in Jesus. His life changed forever and he made a new start!

What are we doing today?

1. Paper chains—Jesus came to bring us freedom.
2. 'Get out of jail free' cards—A variation of the Monopoly card to remind us how Jesus frees us.
3. Freedom biscuits—We can invite Jesus into every area of our lives.
4. Family cutouts—God wants everyone to feel part of his family.
5. Cardboard swords—The jailer in today's story nearly had cause to use his!
6. Creepy creatures—Make some mice and spiders as a reminder of the unpleasantness of jail.
7. Thaumatrope—As the spinning slows, the prisoner is 'released'.
8. Prayer holder—It's good to remind ourselves that God answers prayer.
9. Prisoners and jailers—Use all your skill to stay out of prison or get someone else in there!
10. Friendship bracelets—A simple craft to remind us how the jailer became friends with Jesus.



Handout sheet—The fiery furnace

Today we're looking at the Old Testament story of three friends who refused to bow down to a king and paid for this by being thrown into a furnace. We discover that God is there in the most difficult situations, helping us to be brave.

What are we doing today?

1. Finger-painted fiery furnaces—The friends trusted God when they were scared.
2. Door hangers—A reminder that God is with us everywhere.
3. Telephone cups—Talking to our friends is important, but talking to God is even more important.
4. Three-legged race—Friends are important when facing life's challenges.
5. Musical instruments—God is worth our worship.
6. World rhythms—Music is used all over the world to worship God.
7. Prayer bonfire—Ask God to be with you when you are scared.
8. Junk statue—The big statue is impressive but God is even more impressive.
9. Flaming pizzas—When you eat this, think of the brave friends who stood firm.
10. Sand pictures—Fear should not stop us doing the right thing.



Handout sheet—The woman at the well

Today we are looking at the woman at the well and how her meeting with Jesus changed her life and the lives of people in the town where she lived.

What are we doing today?

1. Mosaic pictures—When little, broken pieces are put together they look good.
2. Edible wells—Think about the well outside the town.
3. Giant well—Working together on the model reminds us how the townspeople would have helped each other out.
4. Clay water jars—The woman went to fill her jar at the well and met Jesus.
5. Amazing stories—The woman told people about Jesus.
6. Jelly-bean conversations—The woman changed by talking to Jesus.
7. Peg-doll crowd—The townspeople went to see Jesus.
8. Ice-cube prayers—Jesus offers us living water.
9. Water-bottle challenge—Save your change to change lives.
10. Origami water bombs—Have fun with water.



Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

God's power to change

Take-home idea

Take on the challenge of completing the task you signed up for at the help station. Talk together about the things you feel are too hard or that you need help with. Thank God that his Spirit is always there to help and guide you.

Sunday treat

Heavenly Father, we spend so much time trying to do things on our own and forget to ask you for help. Thank you that you are there for us every moment of the day. We trust you to help us, to show us the way to go and to change us so that we are more like Jesus.



Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

The Philippian jailer

Take-home idea

Find out when the next believers' baptisms are happening in your local church and try to go along. Alternatively, take a look on YouTube and see what you can find!

Sunday treat

Read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle (Puffin, 2002) together and see how the caterpillar changed into something so much more beautiful. Think about how people's lives can become more beautiful when they start to be friends with Jesus.

Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

The fiery furnace

Take-home idea

Pray for Christians who are persecuted. Look at www.barnabasfund.org for information.

Sunday treat

Light a candle and place it on the table to remind you of the story. You could pray the following:

Dear God, you know everything about me. You know when I have something difficult to do. You know when I am scared. Thank you that you are always with me. Help me to remember to make you the most important thing in my life. Amen

Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

The woman at the well

Take-home idea

Play your version of 'Jelly-bean conversations' using jelly beans, Smarties®, other coloured sweets or fruit. Decide the categories together. For example, red—favourite meal, green—a place you'd like to visit, yellow—favourite room in the house, blue—best bit in Messy Church, white—favourite animal.

Take it in turns to choose sweets from a bowl with your eyes closed. Enjoy the conversations!

Sunday treat

Go for a walk beside a river or a stream or a waterfall. Listen to the water as it flows along and look at the trees and plants, insects and birds that rely on the water. Say your own thank-you prayer for water.