



Godsend App

A. Overview

1 Love

If you're exploring the concept of Messy Church, you're probably already fairly convinced that the 'people group' in your area who most need God's love is families of all shapes and sizes: households, people who have children to care for or who would enjoy being in a church community where children are present. Of course, you won't want to exclude single people or other family groupings that don't have children. But you need to start somewhere, and picturing a household with children, living very locally, who don't already belong to the local church, gives you a starting place from which to dream dreams and a group to empathise with.

It's worth getting clear in your own mind at this very early stage WHY you feel drawn to love households in particular. Being brutally honest with yourself, is it to try to make your existing Sunday congregation younger and more diverse? A worthy goal, but Messy Church won't make that happen! (Most Messy congregation members will never cross over to the main Sunday service.)

Is it to 'reach kids'? Again, nothing wrong with that, but Messy Church is very definitely for all ages, so will involve meeting the needs of a much wider group than just children.

Is it to do something livelier for the families who already belong to your church? A dangerous route to go down, as you could find yourselves trying to focus what you do around the needs of people who are already a long way down the faith path, and this could exclude those right at the start of the journey. Messy Church is for people who don't yet belong.

And is it to do something 'at' or 'for' households, or could you truthfully say you want to do something 'for' and 'with' them, where you and the team expect to learn alongside and from the strangers, young and old?