



## Godsend App

### A. Overview

#### 5 Reasons

Reflecting on the reasons outlined in the Godsend app for setting off around the *loving-first* cycle will help your team begin or continue a Messy Church with aspirations that go way beyond 'We haven't got kids in church and we want some.' It will be hugely beneficial in the medium- to long-term, if you can help a whole team to grasp from the outset that the Messy Church isn't a little add-on to 'proper church' but an imaginative and adaptable way of developing all the aspects of church, especially discipleship.

When asked at a Messy Masterclass why the group of leaders had started a Messy Church in the first place, some years ago, here are some of the reasons they listed. How do you react to them?

- Fun
- Active Christianity
- Growing numbers of families attending
- Fellowship, faith, fun
- A more family-friendly 'service'
- To spread the gospel in a modern, simple, energising way with less rules and jargon
- To bring more children into the church
- We wanted a non-weekend option and a monthly option – we also wanted to do something that would help faith grow at home
- Small setting for discipling
- No Sunday school
- Wanting to bring Jesus to families
- Forming a new congregation that wouldn't appreciate the format of current church
- Offer creative crafts in a deprived area
- Less threatening for families to access church
- A place where the whole families could do things together
- Opportunities to share faith
- Excitement and joy
- Experience God, not just learn about him
- Giving families time to stop and reflect
- To love and accept everyone; to give parents with children with special needs a safe place to be and unwind and relax and have fun with their children

- Aware that there were one or even two generations who had had no or very little Christian teaching yet didn't come to Sunday worship
- We have five separate churches in separate villages and are trying to connect with children in each one
- Place of safety for families to talk
- For our church to learn from the community and vice versa