



## Godsend App E. Share Jesus

### 12 Explore faith

One of the miracles about Messy Church is that it says on the label that it's church and still people come. Sometimes they queue up to get in. Children have opted for Messy Church rather than a birthday party. Parents shout across the school playground to find out the time from the leader. Atheists wax evangelical about it. People want to come.

So sharing the Bible stories is, in one sense, very easy, because it's expected. You wouldn't go to something called *Kevin's Kitchen* and complain if you were handed a rolling pin. Parents, carers and grandparents want something for their children or something for themselves, which they might find by hiding behind the children for a while. It's a team's job simply to share their faith story and God's big story quite naturally through the opportunities created by hands-on activities, the celebration and the meal tables.

If the activity tables are seen as more of a space for conversation or friendship-building than as a productivity drive, you'll gradually discover what sort of activities provoke interesting questions and help you listen and talk about God and which are unhelpful. Simple tools like having a thought-provoking question in an upright display holder on the table set the tone that this activity has a purpose beyond glue and sequins.

The Deepening Discipleship pilot discovered that 'small is beautiful' and at some point in the development of your Messy Church, it *may* be helpful to create a smaller, more intimate, less busy gathering for those wanting to find out more. One Messy Church leader set up a Messy Café with breakfast and a space for all-age Ignatian-inspired Bible reading. Another simply got to know people better over doughnuts and board games.