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13 Sharing good news

Growing disciples in Messy Church is being developed all the time, perhaps because being an intergenerational disciple-making community hasn't been a notable strength of the Christian Church in the west within living memory, so there's a lot to learn. And not just for people at the start of faith!

The temptation might be to treat the Messy Church you run as attractional outreach and reserve all discipling aims for a segregated 'extra' group.

A more constructive and integrated approach is to let discipleship be understood more as 'how' your Messy Church works than 'what' you do in terms of number of gatherings: it's quality rather than quantity. In other words, don't save an attitude of discipling for a Messy extra that may never come. Live out your faith together in the way you do your Messy Church now. Let the kingdom values shine through everything and everyone, in verbal and non-verbal communication (a hot meal – God's amazing provision! A patient older team member with a difficult child – God's unconditional love!).

Discipleship in Messy Church is like belonging to a family with particular values and growing into those values together. It's long-term and often unquantifiable.

You can read more in Messy Discipleship.