



Godsend App F. Church

14 Grow disciples

For a specifically Messy Church interpretation of these helpful points, you may want to consider also:

1 How can we best disciple the new Christian community?

Start out by making sure the team is continually reminded that you're ultimately being a Messy Church in order to make disciples of Jesus and not just to have fun or make connections with the community, valuable though these smaller aims are. The intention will shine through all you do.

2 Direct relationships with God

There are plenty of opportunities in other forms of church to explore discipleship in separate age groups, sometimes called 'silos'. Can you bring the 'all-age' value of Messy Church into your approach to discipleship and explore ways of making spaces for children and adults to worship and learn, serve and reflect *together*? There are more and more tried-and-tested all-age approaches being developed all the time.

3 Relationships with the outside world

You can encourage an outward-looking attitude in many Messy ways: a resolution always to include at least one activity that focuses on another country, group or organisation; exploring the 'social action' approach to discipleship, used in the Deepening Discipleship pilot; having a regular 'invitation-making' activity that encourages everyone to invite a friend next time. There are several existing Messy Church sessions available that focus on the work of charities such as Toilet Twinning, Christian Aid, ECCR (stewardship and money) or The Children's Society.

4 Relationships with the wider church

This is easy and great fun in Messy Church, as contacting Messy Churches in other parts of the world is straightforward – a simple glance at the directory or a search on Facebook will put you in touch with others elsewhere. Think creatively too about not only extending an invitation to your Messy congregation to join in your other church events but inviting your other congregations to join in Messy Church events. Think carefully about what the value of 'hospitality' is all about and who holds the power and ownership of different approaches.

5 Relationships within the new Christian community

It's all about friendships in Messy Church. Always put a conversation ahead of achieving a fantastically finished activity. Make the most of opportunities to put in the tiny building blocks of friendship when you meet a Messy family on the bus, or the bigger ones when you commit to being involved in their life and find them involved in yours.

6 Don't let the group become dependent on you

Make the most of every opportunity to involve people of all ages in the running of your Messy Church: the shaping, planning and delivery, but also on-the-spot jobs like running the computer, sweeping up, washing-up as a family. It's all part of belonging. It's probably actually harder work for you to organise and follow up than to do everything yourself, but if you view the requests to lend a hand through the lens of 'making disciples', the extra effort becomes purposeful rather than simply functional.