



Messy Church at home

27 September 2020 - It only took one stone!

The story of David & Goliath

While the pandemic is ongoing and circumstances change on a regular basis, it is still difficult for us to meet together as a Messy Church, so for the time being, how about trying Messy Church at home?

Read - 1 Samuel 17:32-50 (The Voice bible)

David (to Saul): ³²Don't let anyone be frightened because of that man. I am your servant, and I will go and fight with him.

Saul: ³³Don't be ridiculous—you can't fight the Philistine. You're only a youth, and he has been a warrior since his childhood. You lack age and experience.

David: ³⁴I work as a shepherd for my father. Whenever a lion or a bear has come and attacked one of my lambs, ³⁵I have gone after it and struck it down to rescue the lamb from the predator's mouth; if it turned to attack me, I would take it by the chin, beat it, and kill it. ³⁶I have killed both a lion and a bear; and as your servant I will kill this Philistine, too, since he has dared to taunt the armies of the living God.

³⁷The Eternal One, who saved me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.

Saul: Go then, and may the Eternal One be with you!

³⁸So Saul outfitted David in the king's own armour: a bronze helmet to protect his head and a coat of mail to protect his chest. ³⁹David strapped on Saul's sword outside the armour and then discovered he could not move because he was not used to the restrictions of the weighty armour.

David: I'm not used to these things. How can I attack an enemy when I can't even walk? So he removed every bit of Saul's armour. He would fight the Philistine as he had fought those lions and bears.

⁴⁰He took his staff in his hand and went to the stream to choose five smooth stones, which he kept in a pouch in his shepherd's bag. He had his sling ready as he approached the Philistine.

⁴¹The Philistine, with his shield-bearer in front of him, came closer to David.

⁴²When he saw that David was only a healthy and handsome boy, Goliath's eyes filled with contempt.

Goliath: ⁴³Am I a dog that you come to beat me with a stick?

And he cursed David, invoking the names of his Philistine gods.

Goliath: ⁴⁴Come here, and I will feed your flesh to the birds of the air and the wild animals of the fields.

David: ⁴⁵You come to me carrying a sword and spear and javelin as your weapons, but I come armed with the name of the Eternal One, the Commander of heavenly armies, the True God of the armies of Israel, the One you have insulted. ⁴⁶This very day, the Eternal One will give you into my hands. I will strike you down and cut off your head, and I will feed the birds of the air and the wild animals of the fields with the flesh of your Philistine warriors. Then all the land will know the True God is with Israel, ⁴⁷and all of those gathered here will know that the Eternal One does not save by sword and spear. The battle is the Eternal One's, and He will give you into our hands.

⁴⁸When the Philistine stood up and approached, David ran toward the line of battle to meet him. ⁴⁹As quick as a flash, he reached into his bag, put a stone in his sling, and launched it at the Philistine, hitting him in the head. The stone sank deeply into his forehead, and the Philistine fell face-first onto the ground.

⁵⁰That was how David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and a single stone, striking him down, ending his life without a sword in his hand.

Activities

Here are some activities to try, using bits and pieces you might have at home. If you can't find the exact same items, what things could you use instead?

Five stones

You will need:

- 5 small stones, each of a similar size

Aim to complete these five steps:

Step 1 - Hold all five stones in your hand. Throw them up in the air and try to catch them on the back of your hand. Then, throw them back up in the air and catch them in your palm again.

Step 2 - Lay four stones on the ground, but keep one. Throw your stone up in the air and pick one up from the ground, catching your original stone as it falls. Repeat this for all the stones on the ground until you're holding them all again.

Step 3 - This time, as you throw your first stone up, try



picking two stones off the ground before you catch it. Repeat with the remaining two.

Step 4 - This time pick three stones off the ground before catching the first one. Repeat for the remaining stone.

Step 5 - This time, pick all four stones up from the ground before catching the first one.

It's not as easy as it sounds! You have to be pretty quick and sharp to manage all these steps. Imagine how good David's aim and precision must have been. It only took one stone for him to hit Goliath.

Goliath bullseye target

You will need:

- Paper and pens
- Something to throw at the target, such as bean bags, or balled up bits of paper or tin foil.

Draw Goliath's head on a piece of paper and lay it on the floor. Stand a small distance away and take it in turns to see who can throw bean bags/balls nearest his forehead.



Wasn't it amazing that God was with David and helped him beat Goliath, even though it must have seemed impossible? Think about how God is always with us and fights our battles for us. How do we have faith in God even against great odds?



Elephant and mouse

You will need:

- Kitchen/toilet roll middle/cardboard tube
- White card
- Paint and pens
- Scissors
- String
- Glue/sellotape
- Templates shown below

Elephant

Use the templates to cut out the elephant ears and trunk. Paint these, and the tube grey.

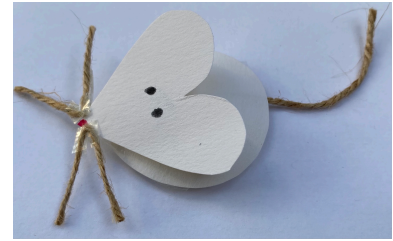




Paint/draw some eyes on the tube (or cut out and stick on some small circles of card as eyes). Stick the ears on the side of the tube and the trunk on the front.

Mouse

Use the templates to cut out the mouse body and head. Cut halfway through the circle for the mouse body, pull it into a cone shape and stick it down. Draw some eyes and a nose on the mouse



head. Use the string to make some whiskers and stick these on to the head. Make a string tail and stick it on to the body. Stick the body and the head together.

There's an African myth about the elephant fearing the mouse. It's thought that the unpredictability of the mouse's movements keeps the elephant on edge. It's strange to think that an elephant could be scared of a mouse, even though it is much bigger. Being small, doesn't necessarily mean being powerless. Think about David and Goliath. David was much smaller in size than the giant Goliath, but with God by his side, he was not afraid and he defeated Goliath.

Courage jar

You will need:

- An old glass jar, or other container with a lid
- Paper and pens
- Glue/sellotape
- Ribbon
- Anything else to use as a decoration



Decorate your courage jar however you like. Every time you do something brave and courageous, write it on a piece of paper and pop it into the jar. Some examples might be asking for help, standing up for someone else, not following the crowd, speaking out for something that's wrong. Whenever you open the jar, remember all the times you have been courageous.

Think about how brave David was. He knew God was with him and he was not afraid. Think about the times when you have to step out of your comfort zone. Who do you ask for help?

Goliath cookies

If you fancy a bit of fun baking in the kitchen this weekend, why not try baking a giant Goliath-sized cookie? [You can find a good recipe on the BBC Good Food website here.](#)

Reflect

It's been quite a challenging year for everyone hasn't it? Think about some of the challenges you've experienced this year. How have you got through them?

Sometimes our problems can seem very large - a bit like Goliath. If size had mattered to David though, he wouldn't have had the courage to take on Goliath at all. His faith in God was all the armour he needed. He boldly told Goliath, "The battle is the Lord's."

How can you be more like David and put your full confidence in God to help you, even in the most difficult situations?

Learn a new song

Don't forget to keep singing Jesus' love is very wonderful.

And, does anyone remember the song Be bold, Be strong? We've sung it at Messy Church before. [Here's a video to remind you](#), so you can sing along - and don't forget the actions!

Pray

Think about the coming week. There might be some occasions you are approaching with anxiety. Times when you'll have to be brave. Ask God to be with you. Ask him to give you his strength and courage to help you overcome your challenges and not be afraid.

You might also like to say The Lord's Prayer. And perhaps you'd like to finish with Messy Grace - can you remember the actions we do when we say it? Here's a reminder...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands in front of you)

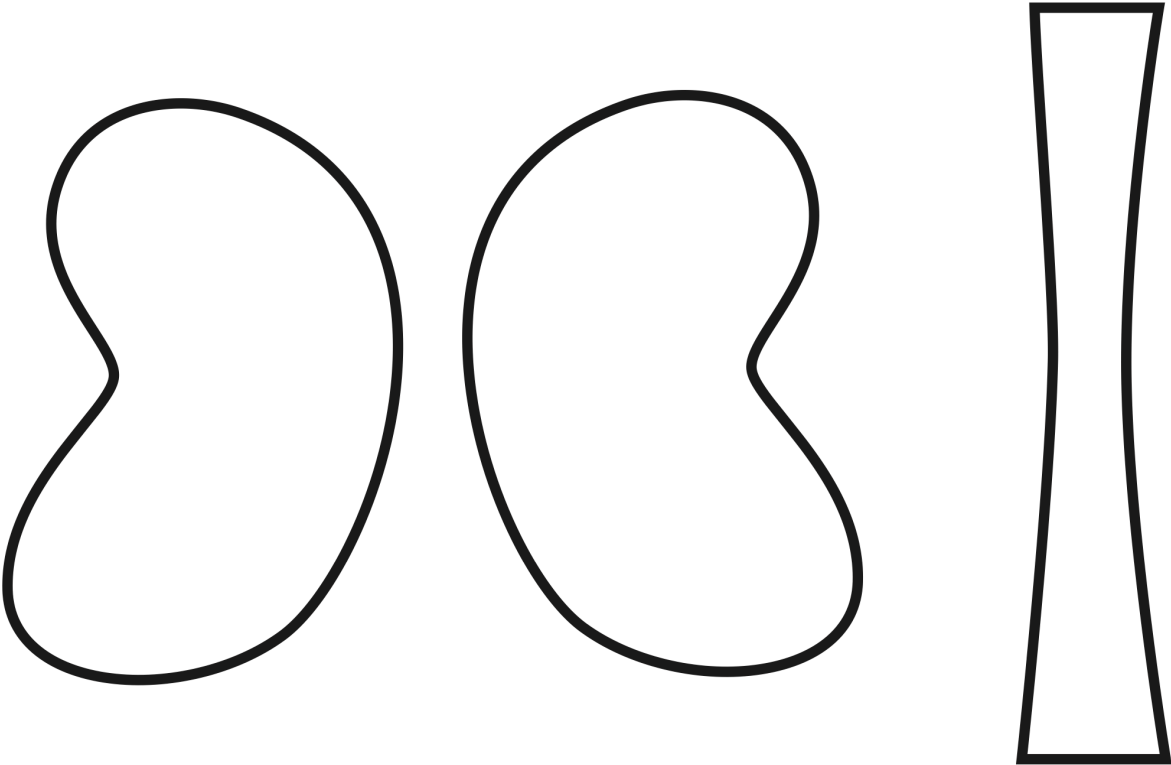
And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen (Raise hands together on the word 'Amen' and shout loudly!)

Templates

Elephant ears and trunk



Mouse head and body

