



Messy Church at home

Sunday 24 January 2021

The Good Samaritan

While the pandemic is ongoing, we are still unable to meet together as a Messy Church, so for the time being, how about trying Messy Church at home?

Read: Luke 10:30-37

Here's a re-telling of the bible reading from The Barnabas Family Bible:

There was a man travelling on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho. He was attacked by robbers, who took his belongings and also hurt him so badly he was barely conscious. Basically, they left him bleeding to die at the side of the road. A priest was travelling down the same road and he saw the man, but instead of checking on him, he crossed over and carried on walking. After the beaten man had been lying in the sun for a while longer, a temple official saw him. He also didn't stop, but carried on walking.

After a longer time, a man from Samaria came along with his donkey. He saw the man and was filled with pity for his plight. He went over to him, bathed his wounds in olive oil, wrapped them in bandages, put him on his donkey and carefully travelled to the nearest inn where he could take proper care of him. When the morning came and the Samaritan man had to get back to the road, he gave the innkeeper two silver coins and told him to continue caring for the wounded man. He said he was coming back the same way, so if he spent more, he would settle up with him on his way home.

Jesus turned to the lawyer who was listening and asked the question, "Which of these three people was a proper neighbour to the beaten man?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy." Jesus replied, "Go and do the same."

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?

First Aid

You will need:

- Bandages or scarves you could use as bandages

Use bandages/scarves to wrap each other's arms, legs or head. Do you know how to make a sling for a broken arm? Do you know any first aid? For example, how to put someone in the recovery position? Try out some of these things. How does it feel being bandaged up?

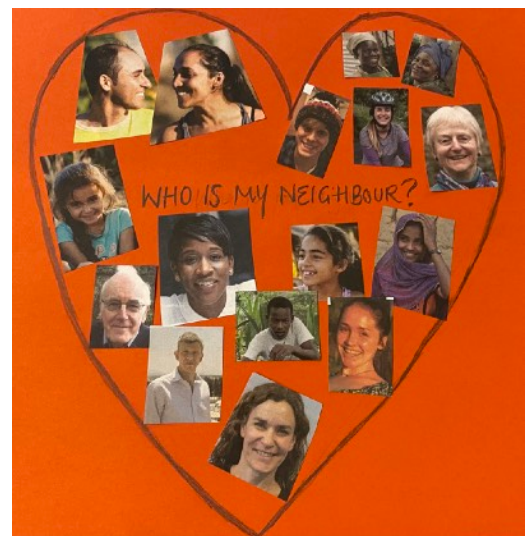
Think about how the Samaritan found the injured man lying on the road with cuts, bruises and wounds from the attack by the robbers. He would have used whatever he had with him - perhaps some of his own clothes - to bandage the man. Then he took him to the nearest inn to make sure he could be cared for properly. Think about people who administer first aid to help others. Perhaps you are someone who regularly does this, or you know someone who does. Thank God for everyone who is able to offer first aid in an emergency.

Who is my neighbour anyway?

You will need:

- Paper
- Pens
- Scissors and glue
- Old magazines/newspapers

Draw a big heart shape on a piece of paper. In the middle of the heart write "Who is my neighbour?" Have a look through some old magazines or newspapers. Carefully cut out some photos of different people. And stick them inside the heart.



Do you know any of the people you've put inside your heart? If you came across them in trouble, like the Samaritan encountered the injured man in the bible story, would you help them out? For the Samaritan, it didn't matter who the injured man was, he saw he needed help and he acted.

Helping Hands

You will need:

- Paper (if you have different coloured paper, you could use that)
- Pens
- Scissors and glue

Draw round your hand a few times then carefully cut out the hand shapes. (You could cut them out of different coloured paper, or colour them in different colours.) Join the hands together, sticking them on to another piece of paper making a chain or circle of hands all linked together. You might like to cut round them again once they're stuck down, so you just see the chain of hands.



Think about how the Samaritan used his hands to help the wounded man. At the end of the story, Jesus says we should go and do the same. How can we use our hands to help others? We might not have to administer first aid, but there are probably things we can all do to care for others. It might just be a small thing like being friendly to your neighbours when you see them. It might be offering support to those you know who are in need, delivering shopping to someone

who is isolating, for example. Or it might mean volunteering locally, such as supporting the vaccination effort.

Think of things you might do to care for others. Write down one thing on each of the hands in your chain that you could pledge to do. Ask God to help you achieve each of these things.

Hospitality

You will need:

- Pens
- Paper
- Thinking time!

Write an acrostic prayer using the word 'hospitality'. An acrostic prayer is when the first letter of each line of the prayer spells out a word - in this case 'hospitality'. Write the letters H-O-S-P-I-T-A-L-I-T-Y down the left hand side of a piece of paper and try to write your prayer so the first word of each line corresponds to each letter of the word.

Help us
Our loving God,
Show us how to care for
People we know - and those we don't.
Instil in us
The desire to serve you,
Always striving to
Love our neighbours as ourselves.
Imitating Christ in all we do.
Trusting in
Your wonderful love.

Think about how the Samaritan showed care and hospitality to the wounded man, even though it delayed his own journey and cost him money and time. He showed love to someone he didn't know, but who really needed help. How do you show

hospitality to others? What do you want to say to God about showing care and love for others? Perhaps you want to ask for his help, or maybe you want to thank him for people who show great hospitality to you and others.

Reflect

Read through the good Samaritan story again. The Samaritan is the person who shows mercy to those who are vulnerable. Do you know people who are vulnerable, need help, or perhaps simply need a friend?

Throughout the pandemic, we've heard a lot about people who care for others: doctors, nurses, care workers, ambulance crews and others who administer first aid and care in many capacities. Not to mention those who continue to carry out services such as waste collection, all sorts of deliveries and those who work in factories, farming, supermarkets and essential supplies ensuring that there is still food on the shelves and we can still get everything we need to live. Thank God for these people and ask him to keep them safe.

But, the Samaritan wasn't a medical worker, he didn't necessarily know what to do about the man's injuries, he just knew he needed to help. Jesus calls on all of us to offer God's hospitality to all people. During the coming weeks, think about how you can be a good Samaritan - try and carry out your helping hands pledges.

Sing

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

And you might like to learn this new song - [Love your neighbour](#).

Pray

Ask God to help you show his love and hospitality to others. Use the acrostic prayer you wrote too.

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!)