



## Messy Church at home

### Sunday 25 July 2021

#### Two by two

Even though restrictions are lifting, we're remaining cautious for a bit longer. Hopefully we'll meet together as a Messy Church again soon. In the meantime, how about trying Messy Church at home? Try the activities, using bits and pieces you might have at home. If you can't find the exact same items, what things could you use instead?

#### **Read: Genesis chapters 6-8 - the story of Noah and the flood**

This is quite a long passage, so you might like to read the following dramatised reading together as a family, each taking different parts.

**Narrator:** A long time ago, a very long time ago, a very, very long time ago, God looked down at the earth he had made and saw that it was full of bad people, who were mean and selfish all the time. They were telling lies, hurting each other and the world, and not sharing what they had with others. This made God very sad. He was so sad he decided to wash the earth clean with a giant flood and start all over again. But there was one man, who wasn't mean or selfish. His name was Noah.

**God:** Noah! Noah, there is going to be a big flood. I want you to build an ark.

**Noah:** How will an arch help Lord?

**God:** Not an arch, Noah, an ark. A big boat. A very big boat. I am going to wipe the world clean. But I am going to save you and your family. Here are the instructions for how to build the ark. It will be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high.

**Narrator:** If it helps, the boat God wanted Noah to build was to be as long as 12 buses and as tall as a four storey house.

**Noah:** Wow God! That is a big boat. Where shall I start?

**God:** You'll need to chop down lots of trees, cut them into planks and nail them all together. Maybe your family can help.

**Narrator:** Finally, decades later, he had finished the ark. I wonder why God didn't just give Noah a boat. Maybe because he wanted to see how much Noah trusted him, or he wanted to give bad people a chance to change. It took Noah many years to build the ark and all the people around him probably laughed at him, but Noah trusted God and kept going. Noah and all his family got on the ark. God sent them two of every kind of land animal and bird and they went on the ark too. They took enough food for everyone as they would be on the ark for months. Then God shut the door and sent the rain.

It rained for hours and days and weeks. Just imagine what it was like when it didn't stop raining for 40 days and 40 nights. The waters rose and rose until the ark floated. Then they carried on rising until all Noah could see was water everywhere. Because Noah had followed God's instructions, the ark was perfect for the job. It floated safely on the flood and inside the people and animals were safe and dry. The bible doesn't tell us what it was like inside the ark all the time, but I expect they were very busy keeping all the animals fed and looked after.

Eventually the rain stopped. But it took several more months for the floods to go down. One day they felt a bump and the ark had landed on the top of a mountain. Noah sent out a dove. The dove flew around searching for somewhere to land. Eventually it came back with a freshly picked olive leaf, so Noah knew there must be dry land somewhere. The waters carried on going down and more land appeared. Finally, all the people and animals could leave the ark. How happy and excited they must have been to go out into a new world on a new adventure.

**God:** Well done Noah. You have worked hard. I promise that I will never again wipe the earth clean with a flood. To remind you of my promise, I will put a rainbow in the sky.

## Activities

### Potato cake animals

You will need:

- 1 cup of cooked mashed potato
- 1 cup of plain flour
- Salt, pepper, butter and oil
- Rolling pin
- Mixing bowl
- Frying pan
- Animal shaped cutters (if you don't have these, you could create your own animal shapes carefully using a knife)



Mix a cup of mashed potato with a cup of flour to make a dough. Roll out your dough with a rolling pin and cut out animal shapes using your cutters, or design your own animals. Fry in a little hot oil until golden. Eat with a little salt, pepper and butter - and maybe some tomato ketchup!



While you make and eat your potato animals, think about what it must have been like to live in the ark for all those months

alongside all those animals. It was probably quite smelly and noisy. How do you think Noah managed to stop them attacking each other? Do you think God helped him? Maybe they hibernated for a bit. What a strange - and probably frightening - situation to be in. And yet Noah carried out all God's wishes faithfully, trusting that God would support him.



### Concertina creations

You will need:

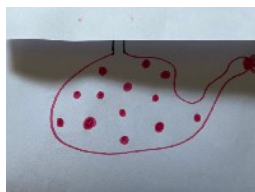
- Paper
- Coloured pens



Give everyone taking part a piece of paper and have some different coloured pens available for everyone to use. Ask everyone to draw an animal head on the top third of their paper, then fold it down, leaving only two lines for a neck showing. Then, everyone should pass their paper on to the person on their left.



On the new piece of paper, everyone should draw a body on the middle third of the paper, then fold it over and pass it on to your left again. Finally, everyone should draw some legs on the bottom third of the paper, then fold it over and pass it on.



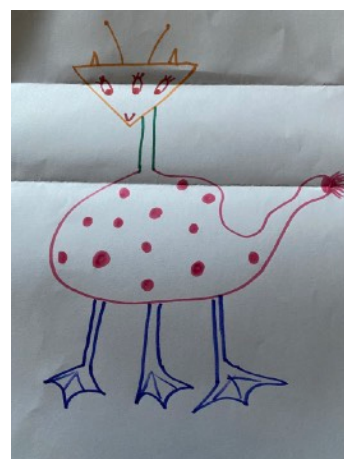
One by one, reveal your crazy creations!

As you play, thinking about God's wonderful creativity in making all the animals on the earth, the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea.



If you could be an animal, what animal would you like to be? If you could create a new animal, what would it look like? There are some amazing creatures in the world, but some of them are under threat of

extinction because of what we humans have done to our planet. How do you think God feels about that? What do you think we can do to stop it from happening?



### Turning over a new leaf

You will need:

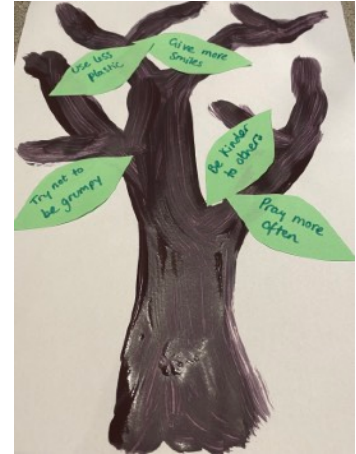
- Paper (including green coloured paper if you have it)
- Brown paint (you can create brown with blue, red and green)

- Pen/pencil
- Scissors and glue

Paint a bare tree in brown paint on your paper. While the tree is drying, cut out some leaf shapes from the green paper. (Or cut them out of white paper and colour them in green pencil or crayon.)



On your leaves, write down some things that you would like to do differently, for example, recycle more, give more smiles, tidy up your room etc. Pop a bit of glue on the back of each leaf and stick them to the tree.



As you stick on your leaves, think about how God gave Noah and his family a new start. We can start afresh too. God doesn't store up the things we've done wrong. He forgives us, which wipes the slate clean, so we can start again.

### **Paper plate rainbow ark**

You will need:

- Paper plate or circle of card
- Pens/pencils
- Scissors and glue
- You might need a small piece of blu-tac or plasticine to help it stand up

To start, fold your paper plate or circle of card in half and then open it out again, so you can see the fold line across the middle. On the very bottom of the bottom half, draw some waves to represent the flood water.

On the top half, start by drawing a rainbow. If you're using a paper plate, the rainbow should be just inside the rim of the plate. If you're using a circle of card, you need to draw your rainbow a few centimetres in from the edge.

In the middle of the top half, underneath the rainbow, draw the shape of the ark's cabin - a bit like a house shape.



Now cut very carefully round the outside of the rainbow, then round the inside of the rainbow and around the outside of the cabin - make sure they're still attached to the bottom half of the plate though.

Now colour in the flood water at the bottom, and then add the wooden planks and nails of the ark. Add the rainbow over the top. Finally draw, colour in and cut out some animal shapes and stick them on to the ark.

You should now be able to fold down the outer rim of the plate/ card, so that the ark stands up and looks as though it is floating on the flood. If your ark is struggling to stand up, weight it at the bottom with a blob of blu-tac or plasticine.



While you make your rainbow ark, think about how devastating floods can be. You might have seen the news recently about the awful floods across parts of Europe. We do sometimes see these terrible weather events and because of climate change, we seem to see these things happening more often. But, God always keeps his promises. When the great flood had ended, God promised that he would never again wipe the earth clean and to remind us of his promise, he put a rainbow in the sky. Whenever you see a rainbow, remember that God loves you and keeps his promise to you.



### **Reflect**

When you read the story of Noah and the flood, did anything strike you as familiar? In some ways, it could have been written for today. We are rapidly destroying the earth that God lovingly designed and created, stripping it of its natural resources and replacing them with mountains of rubbish and pollutants. However, what probably grieves God more than anything is how we treat each other - with selfishness, greed and hate.



God had given Noah and his family the chance to start afresh. He gives us that chance too. Just like the people in Noah's time, we are messing up - just look at how we are treating the planet and each other. But Noah didn't have Jesus - he lived a long time before Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, he took all our mistakes on his shoulders and paid the price for us. That doesn't mean we can carry on being bad, or ruining our planet, of course we shouldn't. But, it does mean that we don't need to worry - God won't punish us by flooding the whole earth again. Remember this whenever you see a rainbow, or a cross.

### **Sing**

Remember to keep singing Jesus' love is very wonderful!

And how about singing 'The arky arky song / Rise and shine'? You might recognise the tune. [Sing-along on YouTube here.](#)

### **Pray**

Try praying to God and listening to his reply - every time you say something, pause, to feel God's presence and listen for his answer.

Father, thank you so much for giving us this beautiful planet and all the amazing animals. Sorry that we're messing it up and not treating it as well as we could.

Tell God about your favourite animal. *(Pause)*

Tell God about your favourite place. *(Pause)*

Tell God something about your family and friends. *(Pause)*

Please God, show us how we can help your creation and make your world a better place.  
*(Think about what that better world might look like - can you see a picture in your head?)*

Thank you God for your promises to us and giving us a fresh start through Jesus.  
Amen.

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!)