

Messy Church

Children's Ministry | Program Overview

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Topic

A House Divided

Description

In the activity, we'll illustrate what can happen when we don't work together.

Key Verse

"If a House is divided against itself that house cannot stand. (Mark 3:25)"

Biblical basis

"God commands unity among believers because, once conflict enters the midst of any assembly or entity, productivity and usefulness inevitably grind to a halt and the whole organization is weakened and becomes vulnerable to attack."

The big idea

Things have to work together to accomplish anything.

Messy Church:

Worship experience for the community of all ages, Christ centered, showing Christian hospitality, giving people a chance to express their creativity, to sit down together to eat a meal and have fun within a church context (Messy Church: Fresh Ideas for Building a Christ-Centered Community).

Resources:

Messy Church: A Multigenerational Mission for God's Family by Ross Parsley

Messy Church by Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter

Search Messy Church on Pinterest for many more ideas.

Children's Ministry Messy Church Activities

Opening

The opening for Messy Church could be a prayer, a song, directions, and then a time frame. There is no right or wrong process for Messy Church, but to encourage families, individuals and kids to participate.

Giant Puzzle Mural

You will need large sheets of medium weight cardstock, markers, Crayons, colored Pencils, scissors.

Designate a large wall space for this activity. Draw several large puzzle shapes on the large sheet of cardstock and cut them out. Have participants color, decorate one piece of the puzzle, and attach to the wall with tape. Continue to add pieces creating a mural.

Talk about: Each person is unique but as we come together, we can create a beautiful piece of art. If we were divided because of our differences, the picture would not look as nice. (Missing puzzle pieces).

<https://www.orientaltrading.com/diy-gigantic-bulletin-board-puzzle>

Friendship Bracelets

You will need three (3) strands of embroidery floss or yarn, each 6 feet long. Floss is nicer, but a nice thick yarn can be easier to use the first time you do the project.

Put your yarn together so all of the ends meet.

Fold in half and knot in the middle (now you have 6 strands).

Tape the knot to a table or clip it onto a clipboard (or get a friend to hold it).

(See below links to different friendship bracelet patterns)

Tie a simple knot in the end and then tie it around your friend's wrist!

Alternative: (younger kids) Fruit Loop Friendship bracelet.

A House Divided: Team Work

You will need colander, string, a stuffed animal, and 10-15 lengths of string 15-20 feet long each.

Evenly space the strings around the lip of the colander and tie them securely in the corresponding hole. In a large open area set the colander on the ground lip down, place the stuffed animal on the base, and fan the strings out.

Designate a start and finish line. Choose two kids to each pick a single string, then challenge them to move the colander together across the finish line (holding only the end of their string), keeping the stuffed animal safely on top.

Add an additional person and repeat until there is someone holding on to each string. If the kids are working together, the addition of each person should help to control the colander and make the task easier. If they are working against each other, the control on the colander will be lost, and the stuffed animal will quickly fall.

Human Knot

You will need 5 to 6 people

Have the kids stand in a circle, facing inward. Tell everyone to reach his or her right arm towards the center and grab someone else's hand. Make sure no one grabs the hand of the person right next to them.

Next, have everyone reach his or her left arm in and grab someone else's hand. Again, make sure it's not the person right next to them.

The objective is for the kids to get back into a circle without letting go of each other's hands. This will take going over and under each other. Encourage them not to rush but work together.

Make Your Own Pudding Parfait

You will need small clear cups, spoons, napkins, plates, pudding cups- a variety of flavors, vanilla wafers, crushed cookies, Oreos, granola etc.

Preset area with a clear cup, spoon and napkin. Have each kid pick which flavor pudding cup they want. Layer pudding in the clear cup, then add a crunchy treat and repeat.

Popsicle Stick Houses

You will need Elmer's glue, tacky glue, Popsicle sticks-plain or colored, sharpie or markers,

The more sticks you use the stronger the structure will be. In the beginning hand out a small amount of sticks (4 to 6) and have the kids to build a house. For a house to be strong, you need more than a few Popsicle sticks. Also, emphasize that if they look

closely not all the Popsicle sticks are identical in color or perfect in shape. But, when they are put together they can make a very strong and pretty structure.

Closing

Messy Church could conclude with a time of fellowship and food. Have a devotion to bring the theme of the Messy Church activities together. This time of fellowship can also occur before doing the activities, as well.