

MESSY SCIENCE

MESSY CHURCH ~~DOES~~ SCIENCE | SCIENCE WEEK | AUGUST 2018

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JESUS THE GAME CHANGER

Everyone is called to love kindness, do justice and walk humbly with God (Micah 6.8)

If Jesus is the 'game changer', then what was the game that was being changed?

ETERNAL LIFE

Eternal life was the change that came with Jesus from the times and understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures. Jesus reached out to individuals in unique ways: there is no one formula.

The parables that tell us of the *reign of God* had a great impact on the people who heard them. They are still gospel: good news!

The understanding of the kingdom of God changed our understanding of what is required

JESUS AND SCIENCE

Jesus observed that which was around him: both people and the community.

In teaching about the kingdom, he embraced botany, psychology, chemistry, cooking and physics.



MESSY SCIENCE?

"In popular culture there is a perceived conflict between science and faith, yet in many ways scientific understanding can enhance faith." So writes Messy Church UK in their great resource book *Messy Church does Science*.

SCIENCE AND FAITH ARE COMPLEMENTARY

Some of the feedback from the Messy Church event was amazing! Most of the parents were aware of it being Science Week. Throughout the months leading up, there was great expectation and excitement generated. The response was fantastic and the gathered generations exceptionally keen to be involved. This document is based on the prospectus: and has feedback in the darker print!

Setting the theme for Messy Church for this needs to look at



Fruit Batteries*

Mess: ** Danger*****

Difficulty***

We decided against using fruit batteries due to time and budget constraints.

Bath Bombs

Mess:* Danger ****

Difficulty **

How does a dry ball of powder explode in a hot bath, colouring it, and given the proximity to Fathers' Day, make Dad smell nice?

Well, that was the experiment attempted by the children and younger adults. Lots of exotic smells from essential oils all packed in a tightly packed mixture of bi-carb and salt!

From those Dad's who worked at the Parish Fair on the Sunday, the lavender bomb was apparently the most well received.

Again: how is this power packed into such a thing?

How does God work in both salt,



oil and water?

the hermeneutics behind the theme. Looking at the suggestions from the discussion at the Cathedral held June 15th, some wonderful possibilities were presented. Some are included in the left hand column of page 1. Once selecting a theme, then how do we do the science?



Jesus and Science: including ideas from Messy Church

UK, and the great book – **MESSY CHURCH DOES SCIENCE**

PLANTS: Creation; seeds, Lillies of the field, finery of Solomon. Ideas: counting tree rings, Fruit batteries* adding yeast to flour, potato osmosis (placing potatoes cut into chips in fresh water to make them stiff and easy to snap: an experiment illustrating the power of salt).



POWER: God is described as a power. Building on the battery idea is a start...could we recharge a phone? Has the advent of electricity redefined how we understand power? In Mark 5.30, Jesus 'realised the power had gone out of him' and the woman was healed. Milk carton car; water power, balloon rocket...

FOOD bread, fish, salt, yeast, water, wine, wheat, lamb, herbs...



Water Power

Mess: ***** Danger* Difficulty***

- John 3:8. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

A small maze was set up and the object was to use only breath to move a ball through the maze into the home. We can see the effect of the wind, but can we see the wind itself?



Preparing the Ice-cream. 4 containers of ice were used. 3 had rock salt added to the ice. This proved to be a great lesson! some patience. The recipe is included on the next page! In addition to the learning about 'what is not seen but known' included the transfer of heat (or lack of) to the outside of the container. As Prof Julis Sunder-Millar was fond of asking, *Why is this so?* The vanilla ice-cream was consumed for dessert!

Feedback from The Group

The overall feedback from the night was one of great fun, amazement and learning. The engagement with the children in terms of understanding science and God was at times profound. The inquisitive nature of the experiments and fellowship led to many questions being asked of the parents, and in turn, the Church community.

One of the most heart-warming comments at the end of the night was from a father with 3 children present: "Tonight, I've learned so much, not only about science, but about God. It might sound strange, but I can see the love happening, just never thought of what was behind it."

In addition to the fellowship, meal and experiments, a little 'magic' was employed: turning glasses upside down and keeping the water from running out just using a piece of cardboard; and the racing of matchsticks over a pool of water.

Our children's worker had to admit "This was the Messiest Messy Church I've ever been to" and was already planning the next one! The concept as initially suggested from the working group was, at first, seen as too much of a head trip, but once put into action, enabled a fun and learning environment to be part fo the Church. The intergenerational nature of the program highlighted that through the activities and discussion, much sharing and valuable family time was enabled and affirmed.

The Science Week concept lent itself well to the capabilities of Messy Church to be a valuable medium for facilitating worship, the nature of science week, and meaningful Parish and missional growth.

RESOURCES

The experiments were sourced from *Messy Church does Science*, edited by David Gregory. It is available in book form and pdf from messychurch.org.uk/science or www.brfonline.org.uk/Download5795 £10 for 100 ideas and in pdf format!

Music and games: draw upon the talents in your community.

Game Changing Your Church

Session planning sheet

Date:

Theme:

Set-up time:

ACTIVITIES

Activity	Resources	Who will obtain resources?	Who will prepare?	Who will lead?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

MENU

Ingredients/dish:	Who to buy/prepare:
Ingredients/dish:	Who to buy/prepare:
Ingredients/dish:	Who to buy/prepare:

CELEBRATION



If you're new to this style of activity and worship, and wish to know more, contact the Australian movement messychurchaustralia.com.au and see if you can sit on what is truly a cross-generational time of learning, celebrating and exploring all things Jesus!