

MESSY SCIENCE?



Not all children enjoy craft activities. By adding a science dimension to the Messy Church experience, other interactions may well be fulfilling for some of the participants. So...put on the white lab coat, and explore the awesomeness that is God's creation!

Prepared by Rev'd Dennis Webster, Vicar of Gisborne Anglican Parish, Diocese of Melbourne

DAZZLING DISCIPLES

What is a disciple? And what does this have to do with the Moon and Stars?

GROWING IN CHRIST

Throughout the scriptures there are many references to the 'heavens' in terms of the stars, sun and moon.

Beginning with Abram and moving right through to 'reading the signs of the times' there are so many references.

The book of Psalms is exceptional in terms of possible imagery.

BEING A DISCIPLE TODAY

Trusting and listening to God, believing what we are told and guided to do, we begin our journey as disciples.

Sometimes, what is being asked seems impossible, but we are still called to trust in God and follow.

We are all called to 'shine as a light in the world' as part of our baptism covenant. What does this mean for us in our daily lives?



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DAZZLING DISCIPLES: A STAR THEMED MESSY

The theme provided for suggested use for 2019 Science Week is the session material by Jocelyn Czerwonka in *Get Messy* May-August 2019. For copyright purposes, you can download this material by purchasing from

brfonline.org.uk/9780857467751

Like all material, this is not prescriptive, but has 10 suggested activities to get you going. Abram is a strong theme for the activity: look at the night sky. Additional suggestions follow!



Messy Food

The Messy Food suggestions for the worship include:

Corn Chips with mince or

Corn Chips with black beans in tomato sauce, dazzled with grated cheese.

Add corn kernels to make a star effect.

Dessert: blackcurrant jelly with yellow jelly stars, served with fruit and ice cream.

You like *Star Wars*? Hexagonal shaped biscuits filled with creme cheese can be made to look like *tie* fighters.



Or how about a Yoda watermelon?



(If you are sceptical, do look at <https://www.forkly.com/food/10-unbelievable-star-wars-party-foods/> and have a smile!)

Healthier alternatives would include shaped veggies and fruits; and maybe, a reconstituted food similar to what astronauts eat in space.

A NIGHT MESSY?

Most Messy Churches happen during the day, but a thought for this year is to have the Science Week Messy at night.

Why? Well, it's easier to see more stars!

Remembering that this is an intergenerational church activity and worship, having older people around may make this more possible (and probable) for expansion.

A few ideas that may be possible, especially if you are city based...let Messy hit the road to a neighbouring parish where there is less light glare. The less street lights, the more the night sky comes alive. It is in seeing the constellations and the Milky Way we really get to understand the awesomeness of God!

Many fringe parishes may welcome the visit and combine a Messy Celebration with your visit.

TELESCOPES AND OTHER EXCITING THINGS

The local astronomical societies may welcome you to visit their telescopes. There is the obvious one at the Royal Botanic Gardens on the Queens Domain. There are several school sites in use around the greater Melbourne area. Looking ahead may well enable an excursion.

GIVING TESTIMONY

Some of us feel like we were around when all this was promised to Abram, but there are many in the community in which we worship remember the Apollo and Gemini programs vividly.

Where were you when Neil Armstrong made 'one small step'?

Were you dragged out of bed to look up at the sky?

Did you gather around a television set (explaining carefully what 'black and white' means)! at home or in front of a shop somewhere?

How about Australia's role in all of this?

With discretion, teen Messys may well enjoy a film such as *The Dish* and how it details one major input that Australia had to this program.

Here's a stellar idea! (*soz*)! The Dish at Parkes was 22 metres in diameter (just over 2 metres longer than a cricket pitch)! How about a tip and run game using an area set up like the telescope?

Scripture
Genesis 15.1-6

After all these things, this word of God came to Abram in a vision: "Don't be afraid, Abram. I'm your shield. Your reward will be grand!"

Abram said, "God, Master, what use are your gifts as long as I'm childless and Eliezer of Damascus is going to inherit everything?" Abram continued, "See, you've given me no children, and now a mere house servant is going to get it all."

Then God's Message came: "Don't worry, he won't be your heir; a son from your body will be your heir."

Then he took him outside and said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You're going to have a big family, Abram!"

And he believed! Believed God! God declared him "Set-Right-with-God."

The Message (MSG)
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DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS...

"The Bible talks about the new believers meeting together daily, learning, eating, praying and praising God together. (Acts 2.42-47). This is what we also do at Messy Church."

"Discipleship happens when we all work together as a team, like the world that has come together to form something beautiful." (page 27 June resource)

INTERACTIVE PRAYER

You will need: a brightly coloured ball of wool for each group-the more vibrant and dazzling the better!

Everyone stands in a circle (up to a dozen in each circle if possible). The first person holds tightly to one end of a ball of wool, calls out their own name and then a person (first name), country, town, village, school, Messy Church or place they would like included in their prayers.

They then throw the ball to another person across the circle and they also call out their name and another person of place. This is repeated around the circle as many times as you like, but remember everyone needs to hold tight to the wool.

By the end, everyone should have had a turn and there will be Criss-crossing of wool and prayers around the world!

PRAISE GOD WITH THE TIMBREIS!

The June edition includes the following songs for worship:

"I've got the joy, joy, joy down in my heart". (Heritage Kids)

"This little light of mine."

"Go tell everyone" John J. Di Modica

"There were twelve disciples"

From our *Together in Song* resource, some of the following may be appropriate as well!

"Sing a new song, Sing a new song". TiS 166 (Australian!)

"As with gladness seers of old..." TiS 314 (Christmas in July!)

"Let all creation dance" TiS 287

"Stars and planets flung in orbit" TiS 186

For a full list of Hymns with Cosmos theme, see Index of Subjects; and the many, many wonderful hymns, songs and psalms on discipleship, including

"I have decided to follow Jesus."

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

