



Summer 2020 Virtual Messy Church

As we continue to be unable to meet up for our Messy Church for All we're issuing a virtual version of it, so you can all join in in your own homes.

Normally in June we would hold our Summer Party, with lots of nice things to eat and games to play in the garden. Since we can't manage this at the moment, we started wondering if Jesus ever took a break and went on his holidays.

Have you watched any of the Messy Church sessions on YouTube yet?

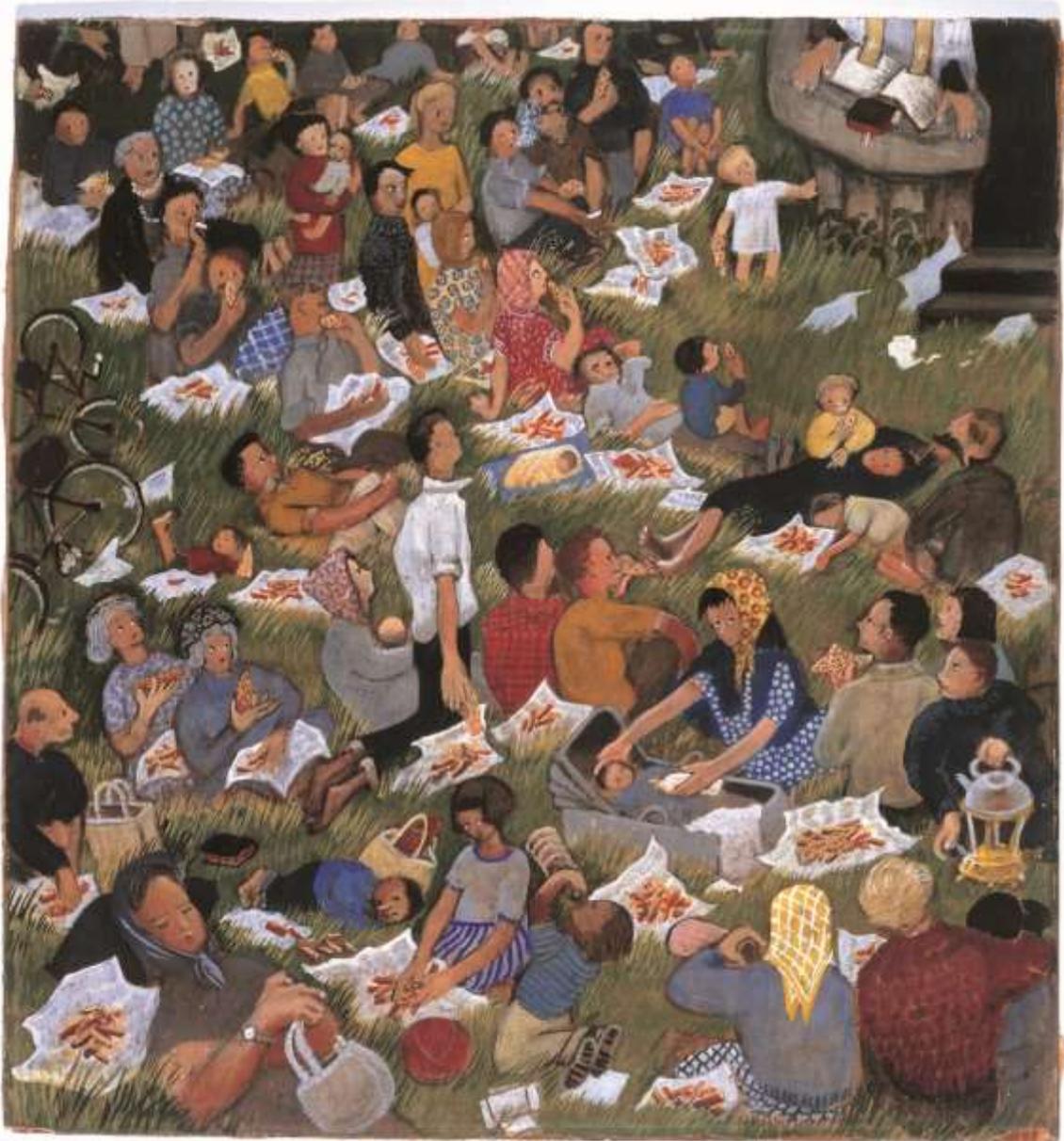
During lockdown, join Lucy and worldwide Messy Church friends on Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/messychurchbrf/>

every Wednesday at 9.00 am or 8.00 pm UK time for half an hour of encouragement, companionship and food for thought.

To get you in the mood, listen and watch this video – Come and join us in the Mess
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-VqfWI5j5A>

Jesus goes on a Picnic



Eularia Clarke (1914-1970)

Methodist Modern Art Collection

CLA/1965/1

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Our first story is about a picnic. Have a look at the picture above. There's so much going on in it! Can you see the preacher? I hope they all cleared up afterwards.

Watch and listen to the story on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6rj9cAJrWE>

John Chapter 6, verses 1 – 15

Jesus looked up and saw a crowd of people coming toward him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough bread for all these people to eat?" He asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.

Philip answered, "We would all have to work a month to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece!"

Another follower there was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Andrew said, "Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people."

Jesus said, "Tell everyone to sit down." This was a place with a lot of grass, and about 5000 men sat down there. Jesus took the loaves of bread and gave thanks for them. Then he gave them to the people who were waiting to eat. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted.

They all had plenty to eat. When they finished, Jesus said to his followers, "Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don't waste anything." So they gathered up the pieces that were left. The people had started eating with only five loaves of barley bread. But the followers filled twelve large baskets with the pieces of food that were left.

Have you been on a picnic? Perhaps you have met some friends in a park or garden and shared a picnic.

How many people were there?

How many people do you know? Can you list all the names? Did you get to 5000?

Imagine a picnic with 5000 people. Perhaps it would be like the painting shown earlier. It must have been fun meeting with Jesus, like we do at Messy Church. Although we may not know 5000 people, Jesus does, and he knows all of us and our names.

Why not go on a bug hunt. If you have a picnic, see how many bugs you can find nearby. Can you find out what they all are? How many legs do they all have?



I rather liked this ant made out of plastic spoons and pipe cleaners. See what interesting bugs you can make.

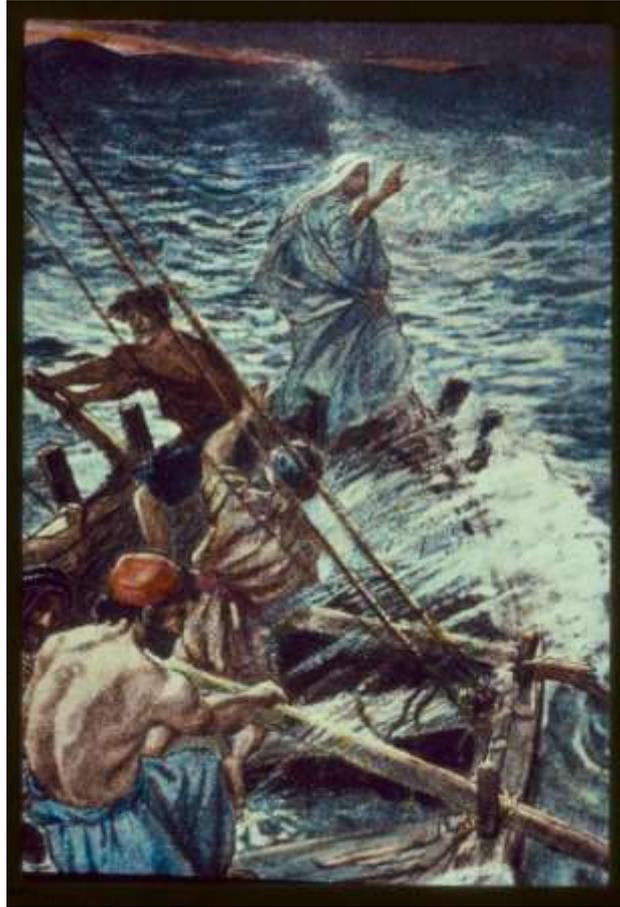
If you like fish to eat, see if you can make a fish sandwich. I like tuna and mayonnaise in my sandwiches, but sometimes I like to make a sliced banana sandwich with brown sugar. What sort of sandwich would you like to eat?



Some of these pebbles look a bit difficult, but you could paint some pebbles with loaves and fishes. If you leave them round the village someone else may pick them up and be reminded of the story.

Although the boy in the story did not have much, when they shared what they had, everyone had enough. While we have been kept at home, many people have been sharing what they have, and don't need, such as plants, clothes and toys. Sometimes these things are just what someone else needs.

Jesus goes on a boat trip



Because a lot of Jesus' friends were fishermen, there are several stories where Jesus goes in a boat.

Watch and listen to this story on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYLHqdSO9OY>

Luke Chapter 8 Verses 22 – 25

Jesus' Followers See His Power

One day Jesus and his followers got into a boat. He said to them, "Come with me across the lake." And so they started across. While they were sailing, Jesus slept. A big storm blew across the lake, and the boat began to fill with water. They were in danger. The followers went to Jesus and woke him. They said, "Master! Master! We will drown!"

Jesus got up. He gave a command to the wind and the waves. The wind stopped, and the lake became calm. He said to his followers, "Where is your faith?"

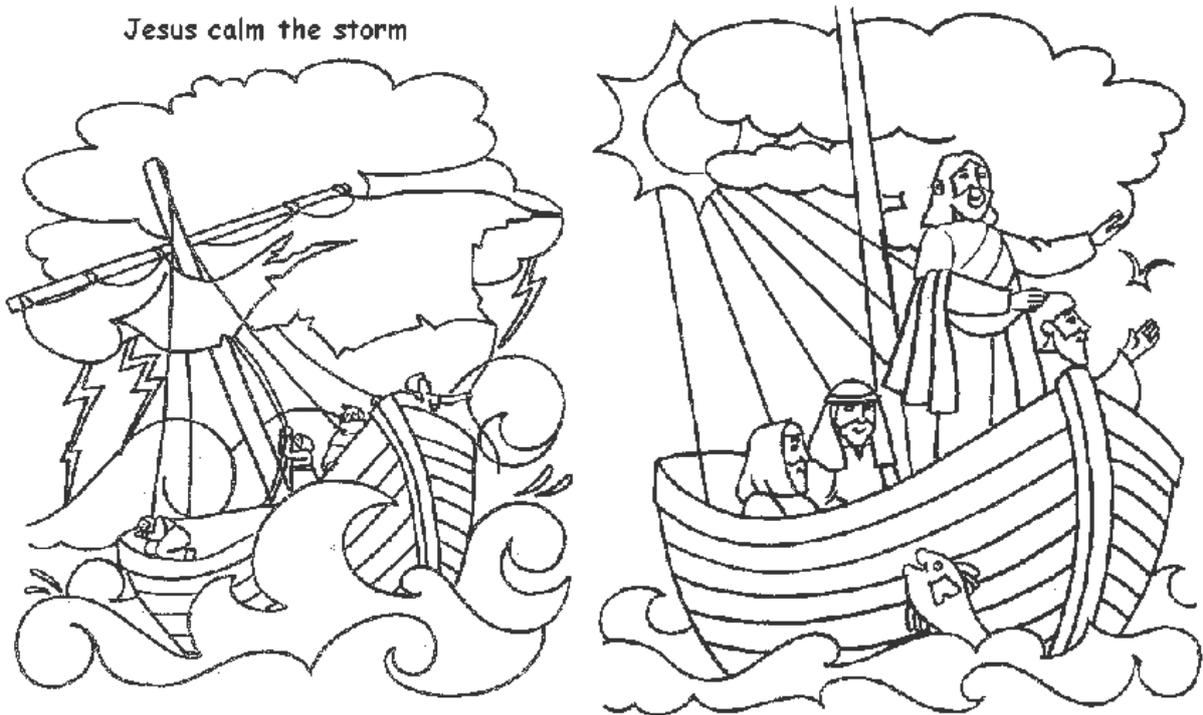
They were afraid and amazed. They said to each other, "What kind of man is this? He commands the wind and the water, and they obey him."

Have you ever played Pooh Sticks? This is where you and a friend throw sticks into a stream on one side of a bridge, and then see whose stick comes out the other side first. I don't recommend trying this on the River Ouse, but perhaps on a walk with your parents you can find a small stream or ditch where you can play safely.

Sometimes the stick gets stuck, and sometimes it sinks. The story showed how, with the help of Jesus, whatever happens, he will always be there to help us.

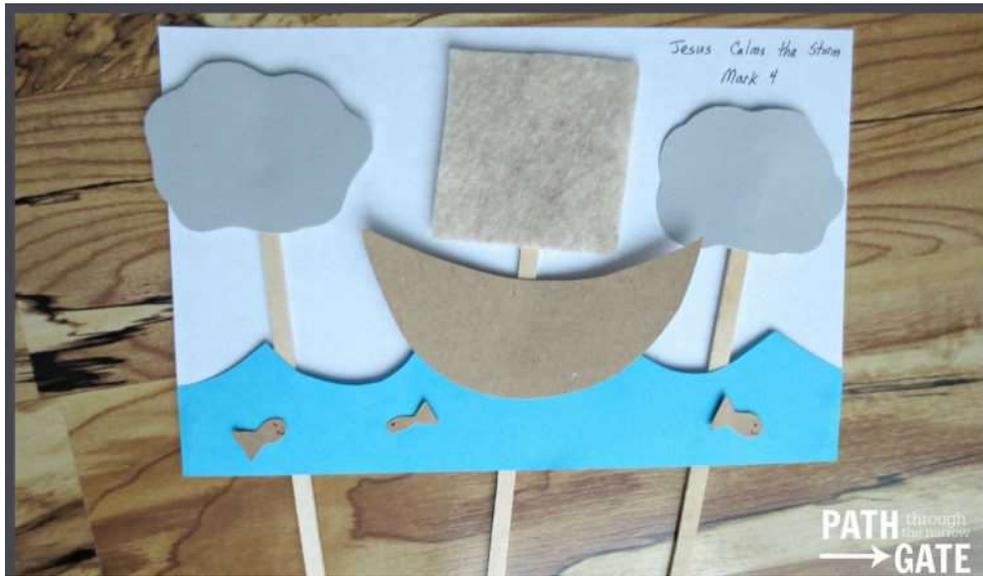
We have made lots of boats at Messy Church. Can you make your own boat out of anything you have at home – Lego, boxes, sticks. Take a picture of it & send it to me and we can post it on our churches' Facebook page – SCALLOP Mission Group page.

Jesus calm the storm



There are lots of colouring pages for this story; it's an exciting one to draw.

If you have enough bits and pieces around the place, why not try making this picture.



The instructions can be found here:

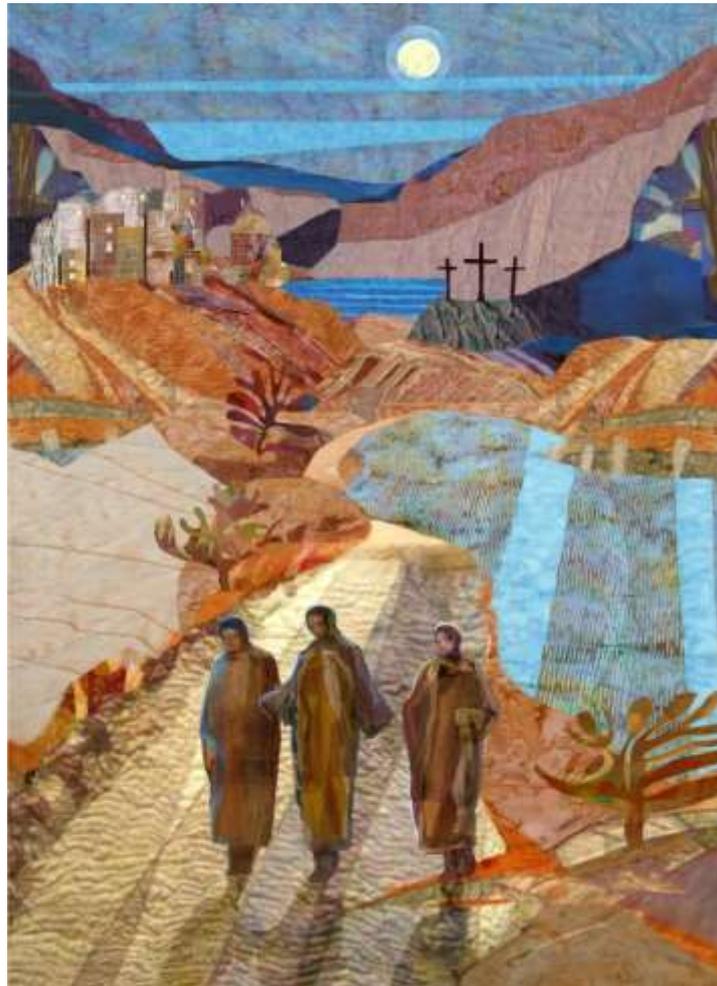
<https://paththroughthenarrowgate.com/jesus-calms-the-storm-craft/>

Here is a boat in a bottle you could try:



You will need: Water + blue food colouring, baby oil. Ship: hull from wax from Babybel cheese, keel from half a small paperclip, sail from a plastic plate.

Jesus goes for a walk



Going on a walk with someone is often a good opportunity to chat together. The next story is about two of Jesus' followers who were walking back from Jerusalem after Jesus had been crucified.

Here is a video of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndtnZV-5QTo>

Luke Chapter 24 verses 13 – 32

On The Road to Emmaus

Shortly after Jesus had died, two of Jesus' followers were going to a town named Emmaus. It is about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. (But the two men did not recognize Jesus.) He asked them, "What's this I hear you discussing with each other as you walk?"

The two men stopped, their faces looking very sad. Cleopas said, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has just happened there."

Jesus said, "What are you talking about?"

They said, "It's about Jesus, the one from Nazareth. He was a great prophet. He said and did many powerful things. But our leaders and the leading priests handed him over to be judged and killed. They nailed him to a cross. We were hoping that he would be the one to free Israel. But then all this happened.

"And now something else: It has been three days since he was killed, but today some of our women told us an amazing thing. Early this morning they went to the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid. But they did not find his body there. They came and told us they had seen some angels in a vision who told them Jesus was alive! So some of our group went to the tomb too. It was just as the women said. They saw the tomb, but they did not see Jesus."

Then Jesus said to the two men, "You are foolish and slow to realize what is true. You should believe everything the prophets said. The prophets said the Messiah must suffer these things before he begins his time of glory." Then he began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures. He started with the books of Moses and then he talked about what the prophets had said about him.

They came near the town of Emmaus, and Jesus acted as if he did not plan to stop there. But they wanted him to stay. They begged him, "Stay with us. It's almost night. There's hardly any daylight left." So he went in to stay with them.

Joining them at the supper table, Jesus took some bread and gave thanks. Then he broke some off and gave it to them. Just then the men were allowed to recognize him. But when they realised who he was, he disappeared. They said to each other, "When he talked to us on the road, it felt like a fire burning in us. How exciting it was when he explained to us the true meaning of the Scriptures!"

Have you been on any walks during the lockdown? What is your favourite walk? I like to walk through Linch Furlong, along by the River Ouse, then across the A6 to Browns Wood. On the way back I always go through Judges Spinney. It always seems bigger on the inside than the outside.

Before the lockdown I used to walk with friends every Friday, and we always used to chat a lot. Now I walk on my own and get the chance to watch and listen to the birds, and see what flowers are around. We should soon be able to see Bee Orchids in flower. This is the County Flower of Bedfordshire. The flower is supposed to look like a bee, so bees will think it is another bee and not recognise it for a flower.



When you go on your next walk, wave to everyone you see. See how many people wave or smile back. Sometimes we see people we think we know, but can't remember who they are, often when they are not where we usually see them, such as school or Messy Church. Sometimes we need to listen to them talk before we remember who they are. That's what happened to Jesus' friends on their walk.

Can you make a map of your favourite walk using twigs, soil and little plants for trees? A bit like an Easter Garden.

If you have some Jelly Babies, digestive biscuits and green icing sugar, you could make your own Road to Emmaus biscuits.



With some coloured card and pipe cleaners you could make a simple sandal or flip-flop, to remind you that Jesus is always walking with you, even if you don't recognise him



Jesus has a barbeque



Actually this picture shows the barbeque getting a bit out of control!

Here is the story of when Jesus shared a barbeque with his friends:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9xxmmM-4sw>

John Chapter 21, verses 4 - 11

Some of Jesus' followers were together—Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the two sons of Zebedee, and two other followers. Simon Peter said, "I am going out to fish." The other followers said, "We will go with you." So all of them went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.

Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore, but the followers did not know it was Jesus. Then he said to them, "Friends, have you caught any fish?"

They answered, "No."

He said, "Throw your net into the water on the right side of your boat. You will find some fish there." So they did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.

One of the followers said to Peter, "That man is the Lord!" When Peter heard him say this, he wrapped his coat around himself, and jumped into the water. The other followers went to shore in the boat, pulling the net full of fish. They were not very far from shore, only about 100 yards. When they stepped out of the boat and onto the shore, they saw a fire of hot coals. There were fish on the fire and some bread there too. Then Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish that you caught."

Simon Peter got into the boat and pulled the net to the shore. It was full of big fish—153 of them! But even with that many fish, the net did not tear. Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." None of the followers asked him, "Who are you?" They knew he was the Lord. Jesus walked over to get the bread and gave it to them. He also gave them the fish.

This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his followers after he was raised from death.

How nice to be met with a warm fire, bread and roasting fish after a night fishing!
Unexpected treats are always nice. Have you had any unexpected treats recently? Have you done something nice for someone else?
Could you think of something nice you could do or make for someone who has not seen anyone this week?

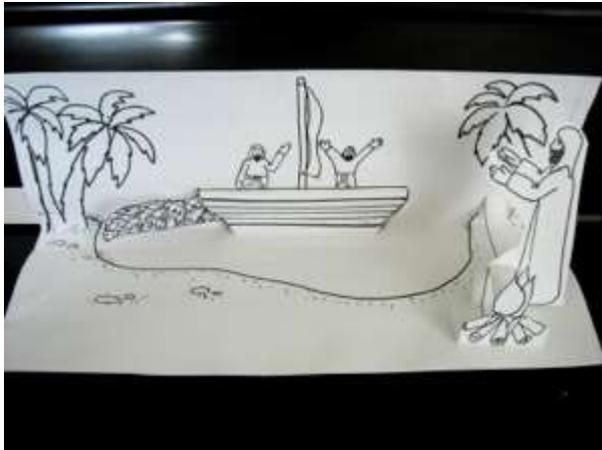
Do you like barbeques? What do you like to eat? Burgers and hot dogs are the usual things, but you can cook other things on a barbeque. Barbequed bananas are delicious. Could you make your own fish cakes with mashed potato, tuna and breadcrumbs?

Well, we've already done quite a bit about boats and fishes, but this looked like something nice to make.

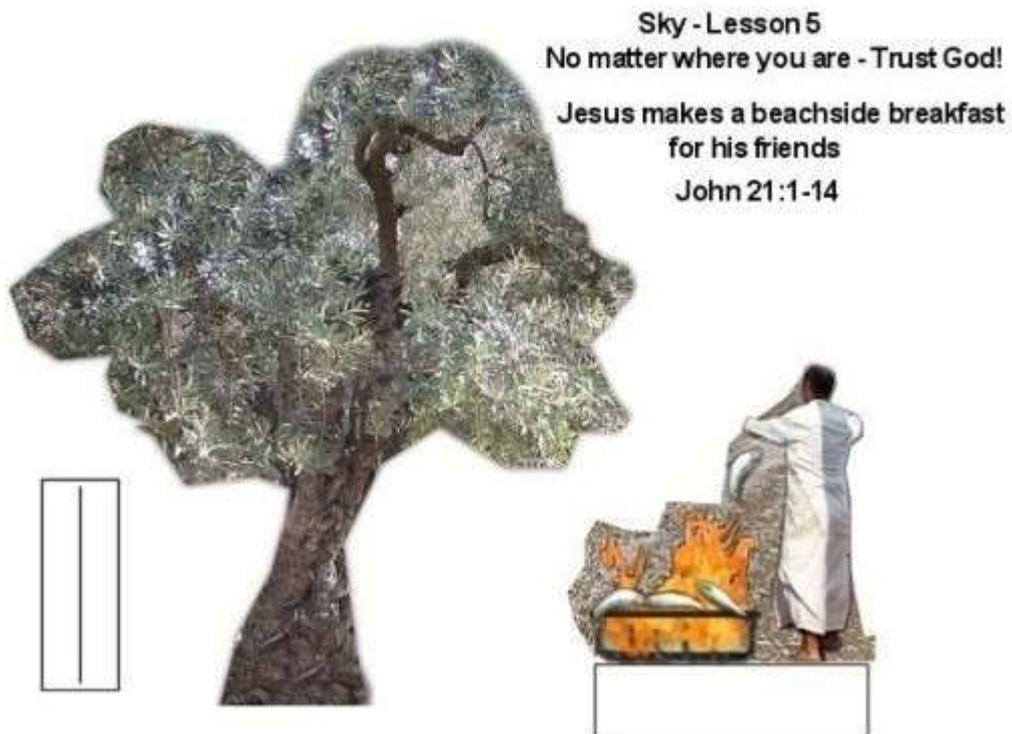


Here is another thing to make: the instructions and templates can be found here (look for Miraculous Catch)

https://amysfreeideas.com/English/pop-up_Easter_scenes_for_Sunday_school.html



And finally, I liked the idea of using material to make a picture of Jesus by the barbeque. What can you use to make a picture?



Jesus goes on a Holiday

Have you heard the story about Jesus visiting England?

One of Jesus' relations was called Joseph of Arimathea; he was the man who took Jesus' body to the tomb after he was crucified. Joseph was a wealthy man, and it is possible that he was a trader in tin, buying and selling it to other people. One of the major suppliers of tin at that time was Britain, particularly Cornwall. Perhaps he brought Jesus with him as a boy on one of his trips, and perhaps they visited Glastonbury, which had easy access to the sea in those days. In Glastonbury there is a hawthorn tree which blooms in winter, which is supposed to have been planted by Joseph of Arimathea. A piece of this is sent to the queen each year.



At Stoke-sub-Hamdon nearby there is also a huge tree which was supposed to have grown when Joseph planted his staff in the ground.



In the hymn Jerusalem, which some of you may know, William Blake refers to this legend:

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic Mills?

We have no way of knowing if any of this is true, but it's a nice thought that Jesus may have come to Britain for a trip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sERiPuOQyvo>

I hope you have enjoyed working through this Messy Church for All. Do share pictures of your creations on the Clapham, Oakley, Pavenham and Stevington Community Group (COPS) Facebook page, or send them to Jeanette.

Whilst our churches remain closed for worship, we continue to worship in new ways.

Each Sunday, people from Oakley, Sharnbrook, Clapham, London Road and Park Road enjoy a service together via email. We also have a weekly prayer meeting on Zoom. Please contact me if you would like to join in either of these.

There are also many church services available on YouTube each Sunday. It's a good opportunity to drop in on other churches' services to try them out.

We're sorry not to meet you at Messy Church, but we hope you keep safe and well. If you want to talk to anyone, please feel free to email or phone me. (Gill will be unavailable from 31st May 2020 to 31st August 2020).

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