



Messy Church at home: August God vs water

Original session by Dave Martin

Why is there so much WATER in the Bible? Enjoy this soggy session!

Activities

If you can't get exactly these materials, just see what you can find around the house instead!

1 God CREATES the water: Holy Spirit hovercrafts



You will need: sports cap bottle lids, such as those used on Fruit Shoots; blank CD/DVDs; balloons; superglue; glue sticks; sequins; marker pens

Beforehand, glue the bottle lids to the CDs. To do this, remove the sports-cap lid from the bottle and push it down so it is closed. Glue the lid to the centre of the underside of the disk around the hole, and leave it to dry overnight.

During Messy Church, decorate the underside of the disk and/or write the words 'Holy Spirit hovercraft'. Once complete, blow up a balloon and attach the end to the lid. Put the lid in the open position, and watch it glide over a flat surface.

Talk about how, in Genesis 1, the Spirit hovers over the water of creation. God is the creator of all of our planet's seas and oceans. What can we do to look after the world we live in? Does God's Spirit still hover around our watery world today?

2 God MOVES the water: parting of the Red (pepper) Sea



You will need: a rectangular paddling pool or a washing-up bowl; water; dishwashing soap; large towels; a large staff/stick; ground black pepper

Fill the paddling pool or washing-up bowl with water, and then pour the pepper over the water. Invite people to either put some soap on their finger or the staff/stick and put it in the water. The pepper will move as it reacts with the soap.

Talk about how Moses, who was just a normal man, moved the whole sea (with God's help) so that the Israelites could escape from Pharaoh. How would you feel walking along the seabed?

3 God TALKS to water: apple boats



You will need: apples; cocktail sticks; felt-tip pens; coloured foam sheets; a water tray (filled with water); a knife (to cut the apples); towels to keep the floor dry

Before the session, thinly slice the apples in round pieces. For the activity, individuals or groups cut a wind sail shape out of the foam and decorate it. Then attach the foam sail to the cocktail stick, as shown in the photo, and stick it into the centre of the apple slice. Float the boat on the water and splash gently to simulate stormy water.

Talk about how Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:35–41 reveals the power of God. Have we known of God's power for a long time in our life, or is today the first time we are hearing about it? Is there something going on in our lives that we want Jesus to calm or transform?

4 God GIVES living water: Holy Spirit well



You will need: strong plastic cups; mini plastic glasses or pots; coloured lolly sticks (large and small) or craft matchsticks; glue dots or adhesive pads; sticky tape; elastic bands; string or twine

Attach the colourful lolly sticks to the outside of the cup using the glue dots or adhesive pads. Wrap elastic bands around them to hold them in place. Using the sticky tape or glue dots, fix a piece of string on either side of a mini glass as a bucket. Then tape three smaller lolly sticks together to form an inverted U-shape that can hang over the well. Wedge and secure the U (see photo), using sticky tape if necessary. Wrap a piece of string around the top and connect it to the bucket handle, so the bucket hangs in the middle of the well.

Talk about how Jesus, in John 4, talks about being ‘living water’. What does this mean? Talk about God’s Holy Spirit. How can we get this ‘living water’?

Celebration

1. **Sing** your favourite Messy Church song from YouTube.
2. Ask:
 - How many water stories can you think of from the Bible?
 - If Jesus is ‘living water’, what sort of water do you think of when you think of him? A dripping tap? A rainstorm? A waterfall?
 - What did you think was most interesting about water from the activities today?
 - And about God?

3. Today we're looking at just one story of Jesus and water. Read [Matthew 14:22-33](#) or a version of Jesus walking on water from a storybook Bible. What one word or phrase is most important to each person listening?
4. Can you include all those words and phrases in a prayer?
5. Say the [Lord's Prayer](#) together, with or without actions.
6. Say the [Messy Grace](#) if you usually do that at Messy Church.

Mealtime

Starter: watermelon fruit skewers. Main: Red Sea (tomato) soup with bread and salad. Dessert: jelly cups with Jelly Babies or gummy bears on top.

Extra

Explore online the different ways that charities help people all over the world have access to clean water. Share what you've learned.

Send us a photo of you all doing your Messy Church at home!

We miss you; we hope you're well and safe and we look forward to seeing you again.
And until that day may God hold you in the palm of his hand.