



Messy Church at Home

May 3, 2020

Eating Together and Being Together

Adapted from <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/eating-together-fun-family-prayer-time-0> and
Bringing Home the Mess by Lindsey Goodyear, Messy Church USA

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Since we cannot be together for Messy Church at this time, we wanted to provide some worshipful Messy Church activities that you can do as a family at home. Our theme for May is *Eating Together and Being Together*. You can choose to do one activity a day or choose a day and time and do all of the activities together. We hope these interactive worship activities will provide meaningful family connections for you and your family.

1. Light a Candle and Prayer

Gather Your Family and say you're going to be a little part of Faith United's Messy Church at home today.

Light a candle and pray:

With the light of this candle, we remember the light of God, Jesus and Holy Spirit. God, you are here with us now and also with our friends and family in their homes today.

Especially we remember that you are also with.... (*invite everyone to remember people from church, school, extended family, neighborhood*)

Thank you, Jesus, light for the world. Amen.



2. Share about Food and Meals

Today we're thinking about eating together, which is something Jesus loved doing with his friends and something Christians have always done together, as have people of other faiths too. Questions to consider:



Favorite food?

Worst thing in the world to eat?

Best meal you've ever had with someone else?

Weirdest place you've eaten a meal?

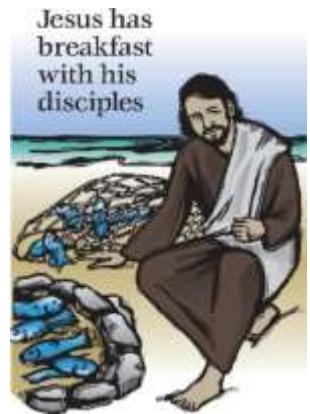
If you could put anything on a pizza, what would it be?

3. Jesus Cooks a Meal

Listen to the Disney's song 'Be our Guest' from Beauty and the Beast.

Read a story where Jesus invites his friends to be his guest, not at a banqueting table, but by a campfire on a beach in John 21:1-14. This story takes place after Jesus has died and come back to life. As you read it, ask people to close their eyes and imagine themselves as Peter in the story. What can they see, hear, smell, taste, feel?

- Ask everyone to share anything that struck them from the story.
- Ask why everyone thinks Jesus wanted to eat with his friends.
- Can anyone think of any other time Jesus ate with anyone?
- Why does everyone think Christians eat together – either 'formal meals' like Communion, or other meals like Messy Church meals?



4. Pizza Prayers (from *Holy Habits: Eating Together*, BRF, 2018):

Cut a circle of paper into sections and give one to everyone present. On one side draw (or write) your favorite pizza topping, and on the other write one short line of a grace or draw something for which you are thankful.

Place the sections at your table, topping side up, to form everyone's favorite pizza. Everyone takes a slice at random and then turn over the slice to share the prayer.



5. Letters of Care

Supplies: Paper, cards, envelopes, pens, stamps.

As a family, write letters to the community who may be affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Ideas include nursing homes, health care providers, or family members who may not be able to have visitors. Receiving mail from someone and letting them know how much you care is one of the most uplifting feelings there are. Take this time to put thought and effort into letting someone know how much you appreciate and care for them. *If writing isn't an option for you or your family, FaceTime and Zoom are other great options to brighten someone's day without spreading germs.



6. Share a Meal Together



Cook a favorite meal to enjoy together as a family.

Read Psalm 23 at the beginning of your meal. Psalm 23 describes a wonderful feast at the King's table with cups so full that they're overflowing.

Say the Lord's Prayer together, with or without actions, and point out the line about giving us today our daily bread. Learn the motions for the Lord's Prayer here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiVlTyU6nc&t=29s>.