



How To

Build your team

Messy Church with a smaller team

- Pre-prepare activity baskets/buckets/tables.
- Which activities could run by themselves using table instructions?
- Have a list of jobs and hand them out as people arrive.
- Start off with a game or activity that everyone can join in with, and then a brief introduction to the theme for the day.
- Have a drinks station where people can help themselves.
- Reduce the number of activities on offer – consider doing Messy Church Goes Wild which needs fewer activities and people.
- Get everyone involved in switching between the activity time and the meal, and clearing away afterwards.
- Go for simple meals such as soup and a roll, hotdogs, pizza, fish finger sandwiches.
- Produce a takeaway booklet with reminders of the activities and session theme for people to talk about at home. This sounds like more work, but it helps facilitate conversations if the team doesn't have chance to have an individual conversation with everyone!

Recruitment

- Have role outlines available for when you're asking people to volunteer.
- Aside from planning, think of some smaller, supporting roles people might help with:
 - Admin/publicity
 - Shopping
 - Help with moving furniture
 - Meal prep in advance
 - Activity items which can be prepared in advance
 - Run an activity table
 - Prepare or lead part of the celebration
 - Help with the washing-up/clearing up at the end
- Don't forget to ask younger people to help – they could be your next young leaders!
- Recruiting from those who attend your Messy Church will also help to potentially change your Messy Church model from done to, to participatory.
- Invite people from your sending church to visit either your Messy Church or an existing Messy Church so they can see what Messy Church is.
- Ask those in your sending church to pray for you.
- Could you work with pastoral visitors and ask those who are housebound to help with your activity prep?
- Could you team up with another local Messy Church and either plan once and deliver twice or deliver together once a month (collaboration not competition).
- Ask people to volunteer as a one-off to share a particular skill.

Last, but not least, don't forget to love your team and say thank you whether they help once or every month, and all the time in between!