



Outdoor Suggestions for June's Messy Church Session: It's all about fishing?

By Hannah Tarring

Summer is coming and there are lots of opportunities to take your Messy Church outdoors! Here are some extra ideas to use alongside the sessions and inspiration in [Get Messy!](#) One or two activities may be all you need for an outside session.

You'll find the Messy Church Goes Wild logo [here](#) and a risk assessment document [here](#).

Activity time

1 Activities from Get Messy!

The following magazine activities will work well outside:

- Activity 1: famous dad's run around
- Activity 10: a strange catch

2 Pebble painting fish

Lay out pebbles of all shapes and sizes for your Messy Church to paint. Add scales, fins and fishy features to make the pebble fish unique! If you have time, you could hunt for pebbles in your outside space. As you're painting, talk about how special the disciples were and how they were chosen by Jesus. We are all different, like the fish, but all special and chosen by God!

3 Pebble prayers (linked to pebble painting)

Once the pebbles have been painted, move to another space and place them down. As you do this, talk to God and spend time in prayer. You could place your fishy pebbles on the ground or on a table, perhaps creating a shape (a swirl, a fish or the shape of the cross).

Together, you could pray:

*Dear God,
The fishermen were special and called by you.*

*Help us to remember that we are special and unique!
Thank you for loving us. Help us to show others that they are loved and special.
Amen*

4 Under the sea collage

As a collective Messy family, create an under the sea scene with the things you find in nature! Spend time exploring your outside space and collect grasses, pebbles, twigs and leaves to add to the collage. You could provide families with recyclable paper bags to help in their hunt for material. Talk about the story of God creating our beautiful world and about how this collage helps us to remember today's fishy story!

5 Sponge boats

You will need: a washing up sponge; a dowel or similar; card; pens; tape; a paddling pool (or similar) full of water

Push the dowel into the washing up sponge to make a mast for the boat (adults may need to support this). Add card to the dowel using tape for the sail (you could also decorate this!).

Float the boats on the water and talk about Jesus calling his disciples. Would you have left everything to follow Jesus?

Celebration

Gather together and open with a prayer. You could use this one from the Messy Adventures:

The group could use simple actions like [BSL ones](#) to go with their responses as they say them.

In faith: touch your forehead and bring the side of your hand down onto your other hand in a chopping action

And hope: cross your fingers on both hands

And love: cross your hands over your heart

Leader: We've come together on this patch of earth

All: *In faith and hope and love.*

Leader: We've come together under this sky

All: *In faith and hope and love.*

Leader: We've come together with the creatures we can see and those we can't

All: *In faith and hope and love.*

Leader: We've come together with the people we can see and those we can't

All: *In faith and hope and love.*

Leader: Creator God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, we've come together in your name

All: *In faith and hope and love. Amen*

Invite everyone to **share what they've enjoyed** about the activity/activities.

The celebration (including the prayer) on p. 27 of *Get Messy!* will work well outdoors.

You could finish by saying the [Lord's Prayer](#) and the [Messy Grace](#).