

Get Messy!

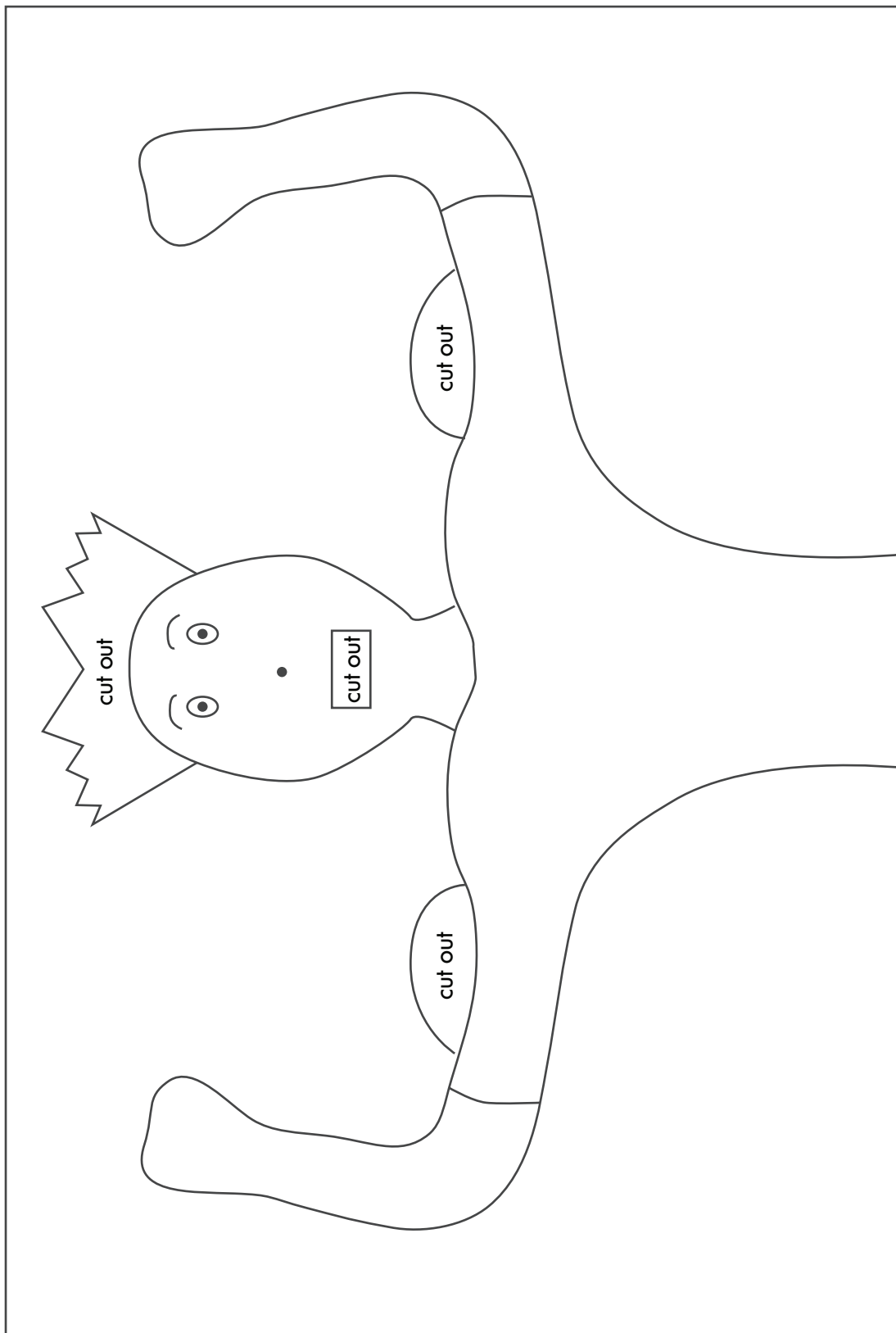
January–April 2014

Support material

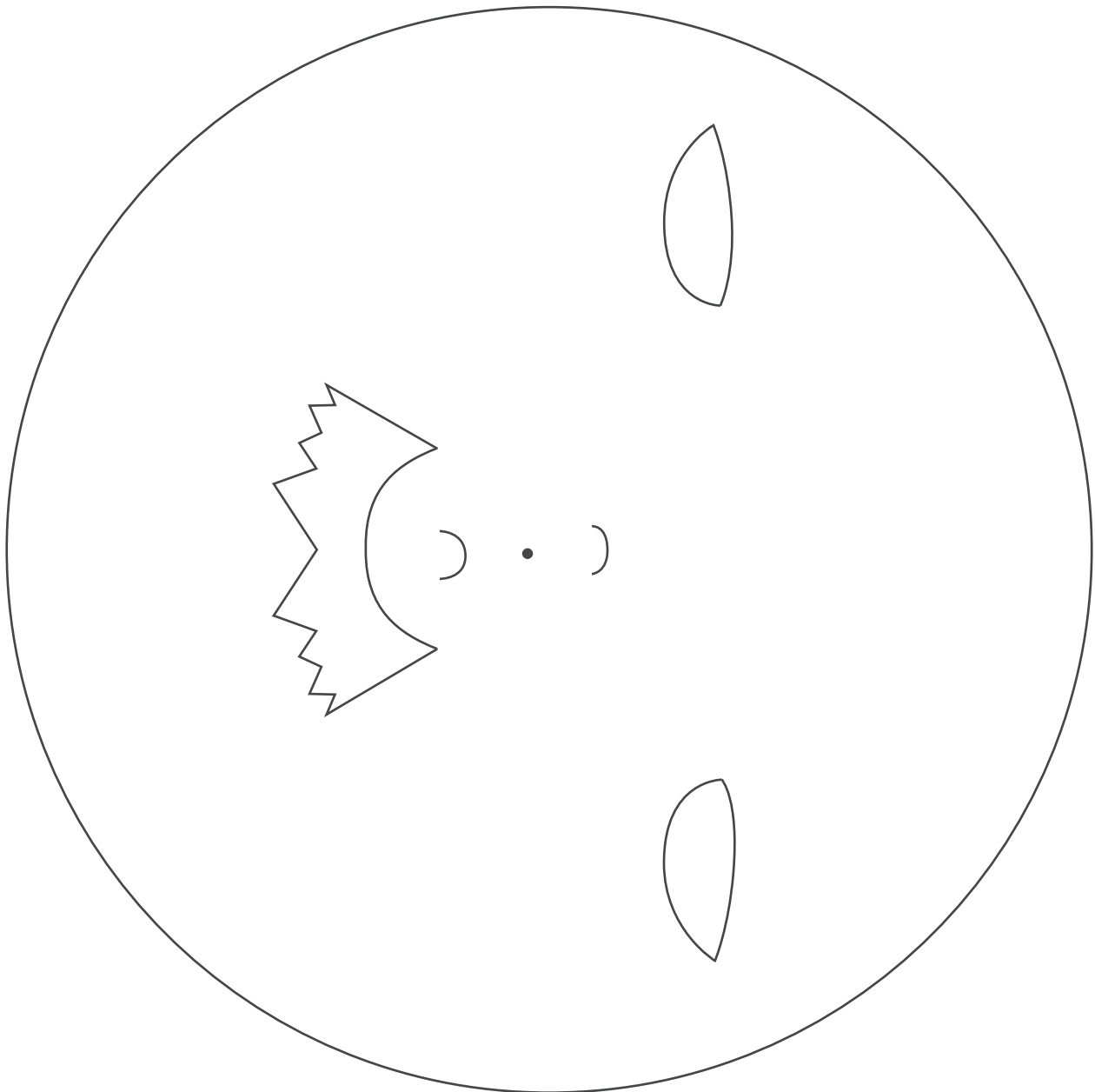


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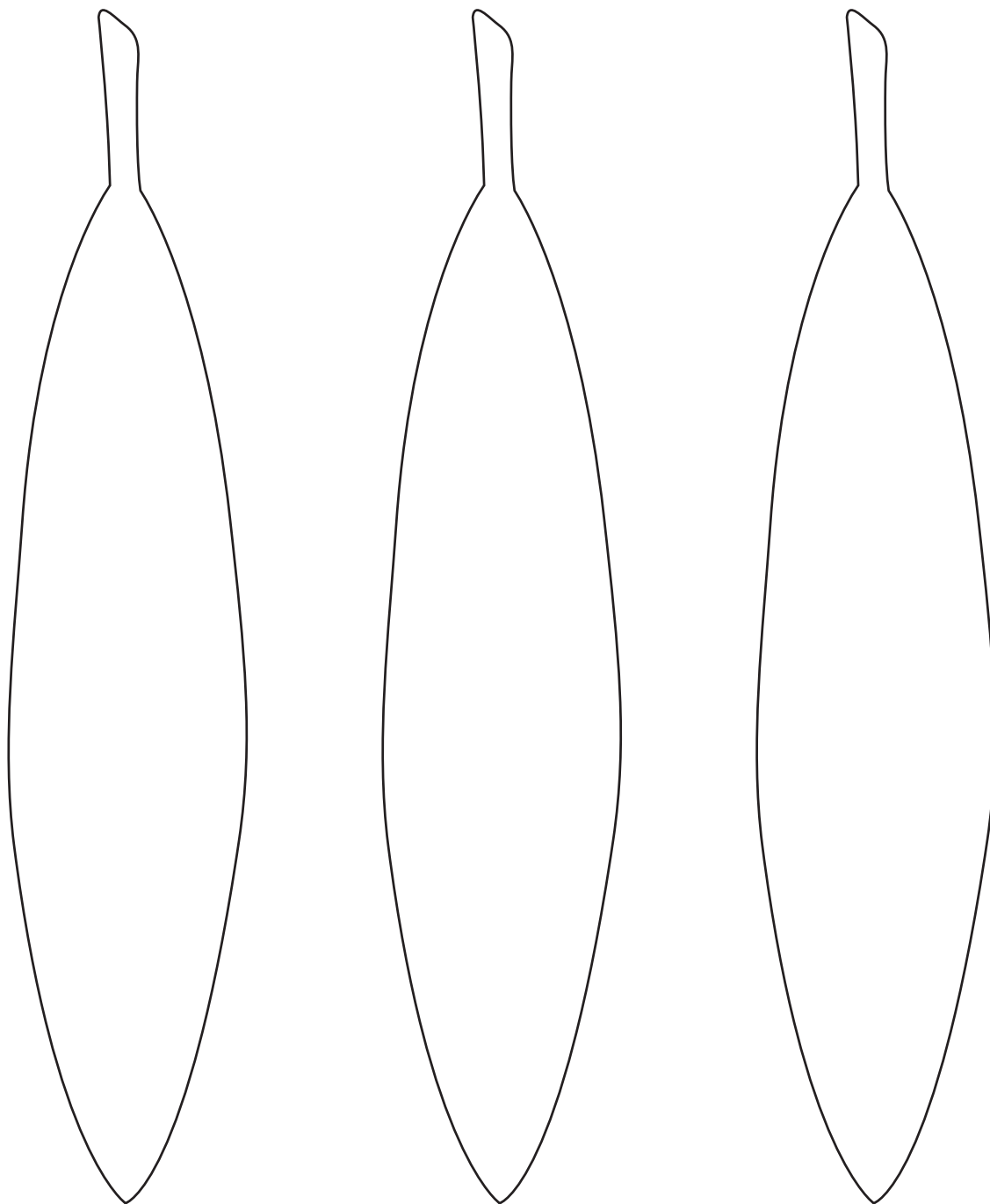
Samson—Messy hero: Samson template 1



Samson—Messy hero: Samson template 2



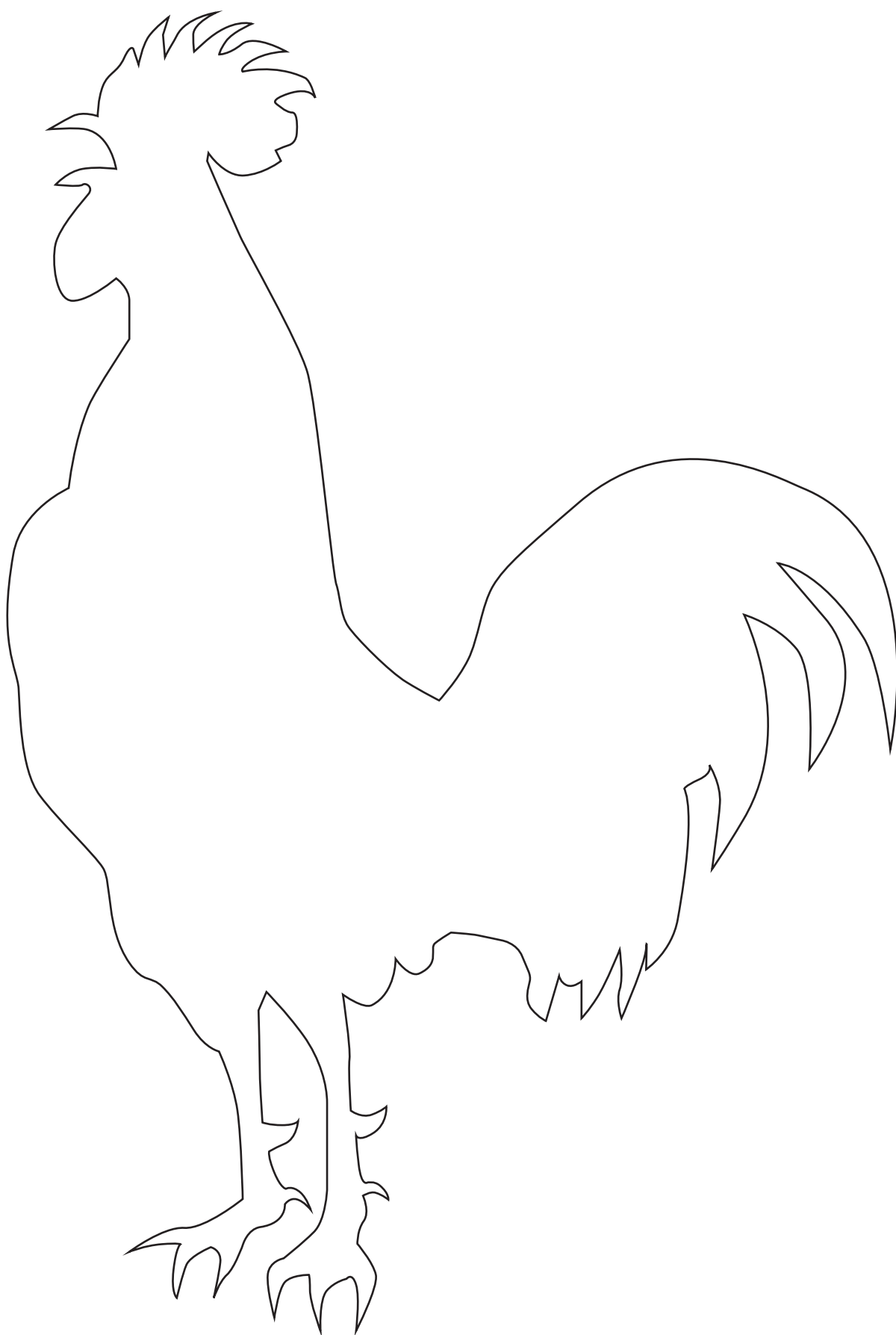
Messy Gethsemane—olive leaf template



Messy Gethsemane—dove template



Messy Gethsemane—cockerel template



Mealttime cards

Samson—Messy hero

- Do you think this is a sad story or a happy one? Why?
- Samson wasn't able to do the right thing and keep his secret. When do you find it hard to do the right thing?
- How do you think Samson felt when he was in prison and blinded?
- Do you think it is easy to turn back to God?

Our families

- How many people are in your family?
- Who is the oldest person in your family?
- Who is the youngest person in your family?
- What is the best piece of advice you have been given this week?
- Is it ever ok to tell a lie?

Messy Gethsemane

- Why are we talking about the Garden of Gethsemane?
- What do you say in your prayers?
- What are we celebrating on Easter Sunday?
- What have eggs, chicks and bunnies got to do with Easter?

What a wonderful world!

- What is your favourite animal?
- Have you ever looked up at the stars at night?
- What is your favourite place in the world?

Handout sheet—Samson—Messy hero

The New Year is a perfect time to think about new starts. Through Samson's story we are reminded that we all make mistakes, but God can turn any weakness into strength—we just need to ask for his help.

What are we doing today?

1. Headband—When Samson's hair was shaved, he lost his strength.
2. Weights—Samson was given amazing strength by God.
3. 'How easy?' test—'Easy' things can be difficult when we lose our normal strength.
4. Strength test—not just physical strength, but mental strength too!
5. Junk temple with pillars—Samson turned back to God and asked for his help to defeat the Philistines.
6. Hair braiding—Samson's strength was given to him by God, but only while his hair was uncut.
7. Edible Samson—Samson is the hero of the story.
8. Hair prayer tiles—Make a mirror tile to help you pray.
9. Lion memo peg—Samson was stronger than a lion.
10. Samson's muscles—Samson had his strength taken away when he broke his promises.



Handout sheet—Our families

Today we're looking at the second letter from Paul to Timothy, a young leader of a church in Ephesus, which reminds us how important our families are, and how important it is to keep supporting and encouraging each other.

What are we doing today?

1. Generation game—Listen to each other to find the members of your 'family'.
2. Family photograph—Who is in your family?
3. Photograph frames—Each person in your family is special. Who are you most like?
4. Name plaque—Names often have meanings. Do you know the meaning of your name?
5. Famous poem—Do any of these qualities and values speak to you?
6. Family mobile—Create a mobile showing your family members.
7. Pass the Parcel prayers—God hears all our prayers.
8. Family baking time—Do you have a favourite family recipe?
9. Family of God banner—Create a banner to keep at church.
10. Bookmark—What we choose to read can influence our lives in a good way or a not so good way.



Handout sheet—Messy Gethsemane

Today we are learning about prayer and thinking about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as he prayed, wept and struggled with the events that lay ahead of him.

What are we doing today?

1. Make a wooden cross—Mind your fingers!
2. Design Gethsemane—A miniature garden to take home.
3. Flower pictures—God gives us beautiful gardens.
4. Easter wreath—The dove among the olives reminds us of peace.
5. Plant a sunflower seed—Whose will grow the biggest?
6. Collage cockerel—Produce a picture to crow about.
7. Balloon swords—Garden fencing?
8. Prayer flowers—Write a Gethsemane prayer.
9. Iced biscuits—Decorate with a cross for an Easter flavour.
10. Easter card—To give to someone you love.



Handout sheet—What a wonderful world!

Today we are thinking about our wonderful world. This session explores the variety and beauty of creation, but also how we need to work together to look after our world.

What are we doing today?

1. Make a bread animal—Make an animal-shaped bread roll, ready for us to share together.
2. Safari—Time to go on safari: see how many animals you can spot!
3. Bird feeder—Help to care for our world by recycling an old bottle to make a bird feeder.
4. Insect cakes—There are many different species of insect. Add to them with your own bug cake.
5. Nature's creatures—Make your own special creature out of shells.
6. Fruit and vegetable printing—See the different shapes you can make.
7. Sock puppets—Make a crazy sock puppet and remember that God loves all of us.
8. Tin-can pen pot—Decorate a pot for your pens and pencils, and think about other ways of looking after our world better.
9. Praise quilt—Help us to make a big quilt, about all the different things we love about our world.
10. Suncatcher—Make a suncatcher using recycled CDs.



Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

Samson—Messy hero

Take-home idea

Go out for a walk and see how many leaves you can find (you'll have to look hard in January!). For each leaf you find, think of something that you would like God's help with and ask him.

Sunday treat

God is my rock, he is solid and strong.
I just have to trust him and I'll never go wrong.



Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

Our families

Take-home idea

If possible, spend some time with a grandparent. Ask them what it was like for them as they grew up.
Make time to eat a meal when every person in your family is present.
Make time to read a Bible story together and imagine yourself in the story. What questions would you ask?

Sunday treat

Lord Jesus,
We thank you for our family and that we can spend time with each other today.
We thank you, too, that we are part of the Messy Church family.
Please be with us as we share this food and help us to listen to each other.
Amen



Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

Messy Gethsemane

Take-home idea

Find a quiet spot in a garden or park, perhaps under a big tree, keep still and silent for five minutes and think about what, or who, is the most important thing in your life.

Sunday treat

God be in my head and in my understanding.

God be in my eyes and in my looking.

God be in my heart and in my thinking.

God be in my life and in my living.

Amen

Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

What a wonderful world!

Take-home idea

Why not think together about ways you can reduce, reuse and recycle, so that we can care for our lovely world?

Sunday treat

Dear God, we thank you for our lovely world.
Thank you for caring for us.
Help us to care for our world and look after it better.
Amen

