



# Messy Assembly



## What is Messy Assembly?

Messy Assembly take the principles of Messy Church but places them into collective worship in school. The aim is to explore a Biblical text or story through a craft activity as a means to respond or reflect on the worship's central message or theme. It is relatively easy to plan, involves every child fully and results in great work to use as instant displays in your school linked to collective worship.

Originally I introduced one Messy Assembly a half term to each of my schools, then after meeting with my Ethos Group at each school the feedback was they wanted more. They thoroughly enjoyed the activities and opportunities to create a visual response to their worship. We now undertake a Messy Assembly each fortnight and if the children had their way it would be every day!

Messy Assembly allows every member of your school to be included if planned well. It allows children to work collaboratively in cross age phase groups and it allows them to live out some of the values of care, respect and at times tolerance! when worshiping in this way.

## What is included?

The structure is very simple, it opens with a prayer (in our case the school prayer). We then follow this with the connection of our worship to the Holy Trinity and three children introduce the three symbols we have chosen to use to represent the Trinity one child says the following:

**The Bible is the word of God and reminds us of him.**

*After the Bible has been introduced the children say:*

We believe in God the father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

**The cross reminds of Jesus and his time with us on Earth.**

*After the Cross has been introduced the children will say:*

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

**When we light the candle we think of the Holy Spirit that is within us all.**

*After the Candle is lit and introduced the children say:*

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

An introduction to the aspect of the Value we are worshiping for the half term is then introduced e.g. Truthfulness – The value of telling the truth and a Biblical text or Story is then read and reflected on before the craft activity is then introduced. The children are then either asked to work in 'Family Groups' (cross age phase) or organised in a certain way to create their visual response. This last for about 15 minutes.

We then gather and celebrate what we have made. Sing the Messy Assembly Song (see below) and say the Messy grace together before departing with a 'Value Thought for the Day'.

The creative responses are then gathered together and displayed instantly for the children to see, discuss and reflect on. We then keep these responses in a portfolio or photograph them as a record of what we do.

## The Messy Song

This is a song we chose that all ages can access and sing easily. It is an upbeat song that we adopted as our Messy Assembly Song, it was chosen as one of our local churches uses this as their toddler group song. This provided a good link between ourselves and our local church.

### *Refrain*

*God loves you, and I love you,  
and that's the way it should be.  
God loves you, and I love you,  
and that's the way it should be.*

### *Refrain*

*God loves you, and I love you,  
and that's the way it should be.  
God loves you, and I love you,  
and that's the way it should be.*

### *Refrain*

*God loves you, and I love you,  
and that's the way it should be.  
God loves you, and I love you,  
and that's the way it should be.*

### *Refrain*

*God loves you, and I love you,  
and that's the way it should be.  
God loves you, and I love you,  
and that's the way it should be.*

### *Verse 1*

*You can be happy, and I can be happy,  
and that's the way it should be.  
You can be happy, and I can be happy,  
and that's the way it should be.*

### *Verse 2*

*You can be very sad, I can be very sad,  
and that's the way it can be.  
You can be very sad, I can be very sad,  
and that's the way it can be.*

### *Verse 3*

*We can love others like sisters and brothers;  
and that's the way it should be.  
We can love others like sisters and brothers;  
and that's the way it should be.*

You can download the music to accompany this song free by searching the web or using the following link:

[http://www.hymn-books.com/HymnBook\\_Hymn.php?HBHymns\\_ID=3394&Rge=3](http://www.hymn-books.com/HymnBook_Hymn.php?HBHymns_ID=3394&Rge=3)

## The Messy Grace

At the end of the Messy Assembly we will say together the Messy Grace, this is an action prayer. It again supports the positive and upbeat approach to the collective worship.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, (cup palms facing upwards together)  
And the love of God, (Place hands together over our heart)  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, (hold hands with friends)  
Be with us all evermore.

**A A A A Amen**

(as we say this we raise our hands held with our friends to a cheer)

## Examples of Messy Assembly Activities

### Truthfulness – Choosing the Truth

Recap on the story of Adam & Eve, ask the children to make apples for the tree and a snake (large) for the serpent who made them lie.  Display these as part of the Truthfulness display.	C&P 86 The Bell of Creation	Bible Stories p 6-8  Genesis 2:8-25 & 3:1-24
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### Compassion – Gods Compassion for His People

Footprints story, focus on God being compassionate.  What is it like to have someone to reach out to?  Children's Footprints  Children to draw around their own footprints and to write people who walk with them in life and who help them. Make a foot print trail in the hall and read each others. Think about people who help us to be safe, happy, learn, grow.	C&P 45 The Journey of Life	Footprints Poem
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### Humility: Asking for Help

The Feeding of the Five Thousand  Read Food for the Hungry and The Boy Whose Lunch Fed Thousands.  Discuss with the children how we know that Jesus helped people in lots of ways, such as the stories they have heard. That he healed lepers and that he gave people advice. How did Jesus seek advice? Discuss the value of prayer asking for God's guidance.  Ask the children to write prayers or thoughts about helping and advice. Children to draw around their hand and write on the palm a person they want to help then on each finger they can write 5 ways they can help them.	C&P 18 He Gave Me Eyes So I Could See	Children's Bible p264  Collect cut out hands to display in our Collective Worship Big Book.
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## Generosity: Hope for the Future and for Others

Day 1	Heaven – God's Party Parable of the King in Mt ch22 v1-10 What would the party be like? (Stop before the unwelcome guest appears!)	Come & Praise 52 Lord of all Hopefulness Prayer thanking God for his wonderful gifts
Day 2	Seating guests at a banquet – drama Read Luke ch14 v1-13 Children to act out 2 versions – 1 where the guest is a show off, one where the guest is humble. Discuss the differences and the messages from this.	Come & Praise 68 Kum-ba- ya
Day 3 Messy Assembly	Generosity – what can we do to be generous?  Children to think about the two parables they have heard this week and discuss ways you can be generous. Do we have to physically give to be generous? Can we give in other ways? Children to draw around their hand and write down ways they can and are generous to others.	Come & Praise 51 Lord's Prayer

## Perseverance: Self Belief (Start of Easter Story)

<b>Mon</b>	The Big Parade – celebration in believing in ourselves and others!	Peace is flowing	Children's Bible P308 The Big Parade / Jerusalem!
<b>Tues</b> Messy Assembly	Making paper palm crosses  Use this link: <a href="http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-Palm-Crosses/">http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-Palm-Crosses/</a>	Trotting, Trotting! (128)	Use this link to discuss Palm crosses: <a href="http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/lent-cross-7-the-palm-cross/#">http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/lent-cross-7-the-palm-cross/#</a>

