

Supplement



GET
MESSY!

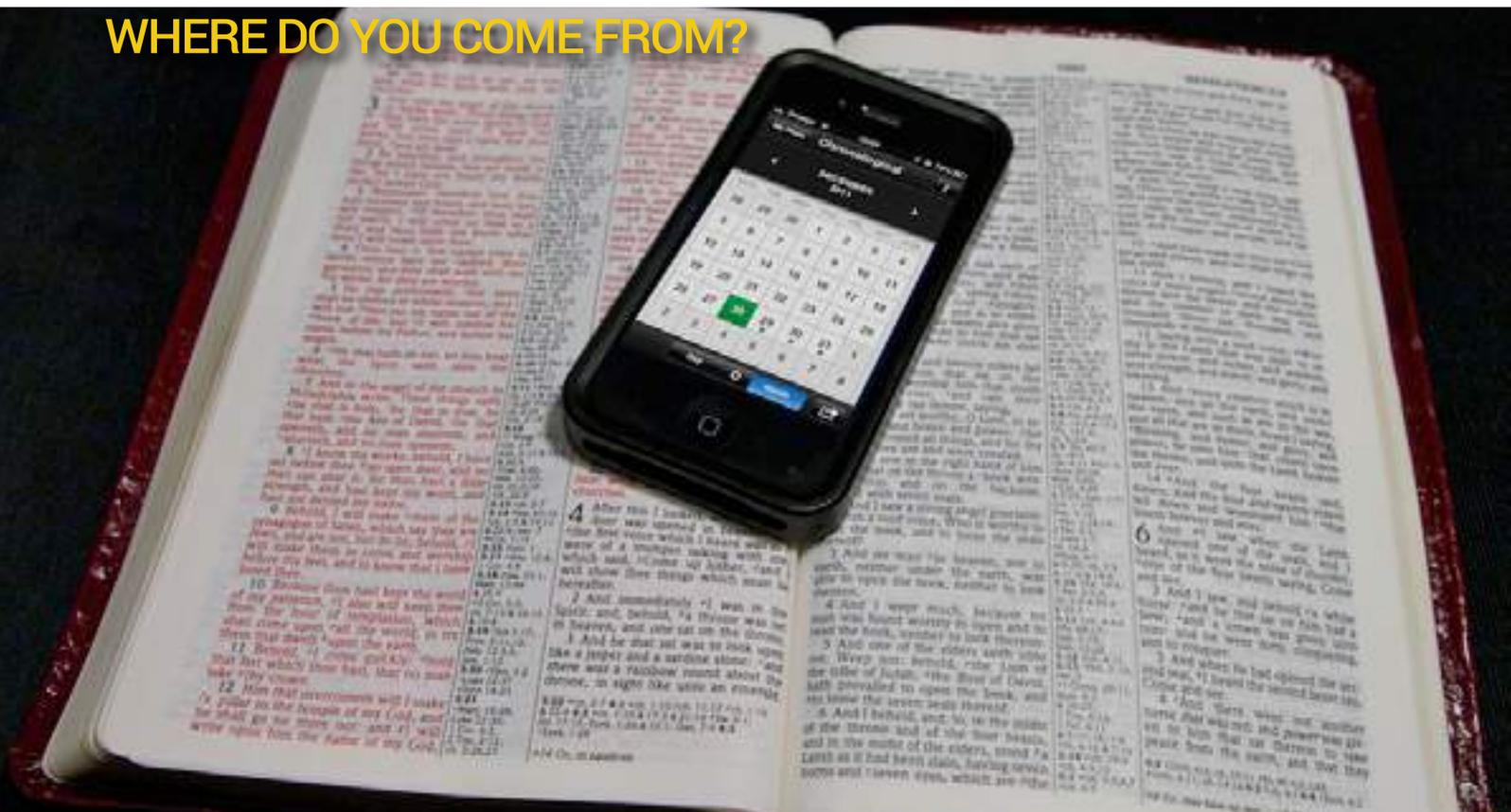
Exclusive

AUSTRALIAN
SPECIAL



Colossians 1:6-14

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?



The passage of scripture used in the May session material is Colossians 1:6-14.

“

The ***gospel keeps bringing blessings*** and is ***spreading throughout the world***, just as it has among you ever since the day you first ***heard about the grace of God and came to know it as it really is***. You learned of God's grace from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is Christ's faithful worker on our behalf. He has told us of the love that the Spirit has given you. For this reason we have always prayed for you, ever since we heard about you. ***We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will, with all the wisdom and understanding that his Spirit gives. Then you will be able to live as the Lord wants*** and will always do what pleases him.

Your lives will ***produce all kinds of good deeds***, and ***you will grow in your knowledge of God***. May you be ***made strong*** with all the strength which comes from his glorious power, so that you may be able to ***endure everything with patience***. And ***with joy give thanks*** to the Father, who has made you fit to have your share of what God has reserved for his people in the kingdom of light. He ***rescued us*** from the power of darkness and ***brought us safe into the kingdom of his dear Son***, by whom we are ***set free***, that is, our ***sins are forgiven***.

”

May Our Worldwide Family

Finding our Australian voice as Messy Church has taken some time, but as Messy Church matures here, Messy Church Australia is keen to find ways to give expression to our Southern Hemisphere life and seasons, our way of talking and living and our way of being Messy Church.

Welcome to our first Messy Church Australia Get Messy! Supplement. Each supplement will offer ideas and experiences to extend the material in the UK edition. We hope you find it helpful and we welcome feedback.



Hi, I'm Judyth Roberts and have been working for the VCCE team doing Messy Church Ministry Development. Among other things I maintain the website www.messychurchaustralia.com.au and the Messy Church Australia Facebook page and Pinterest site. There are further articles and resources available on line. Apart from the ideas to extend the activities provided by Stacey, I hope you will find Mother's Day and Pentecost materials on the website and Pinterest.

I am also part of a group of ten people travelling from Australia to the UK to attend the Messy Church International Conference in May. There will be a feature about this in our next edition and a chance to meet more of the VCCE team.



Welcome to the Australian Get Messy! supplement. I'm Stacey Wilson, I have trained and worked as a paediatric Occupational Therapist, been in Kids and Families ministry for longer than I care to admit and am now part of the VCCE team. I am also the mum of three amazing teenagers and the very patient wife of a full time engineering student. My role at the VCCE is to support intergenerational ministry development. I am also a CBM Luke14 regional coordinator working with church communities to become more inclusive of people living with disabilities and their families.



I have been asked to look at the activities section of the session material in Get Messy! in more detail to offer some insights into the process I have found useful in developing and running the creative experience component of a Messy Church gathering.

The creative time is often described 'the easy part', my eye twitches whenever I hear the phrase 'it's all on Pinterest'. Now don't get me wrong, I love Pinterest as much as the next kid's ministry leader of a certain age! But if we fill our Messy Churches with cute little craft activities we miss an amazing opportunity to help people engage with word of God in a multi sensory way.

What I have written may seem quite prescriptive. It is not my intention to tell you exactly how to do an activity, rather to describe the thought process I use to bring an activity together with a passage of scripture in a meaningful way.

May Our Worldwide Family

Thinking the theology through: The gospel message is meant to be a blessing for all the people of this world. But that hasn't always been the case, particularly in this country. Many other things were mixed with the message of Christ. But for some, it has still brought hope and blessings despite everything else.

Learn more about the history of our country by accessing [Australians Together:](#)

[Sharing our Stories resource](#)

You will need: Paper and Pens, [Map](#) or [Online Interactive Map](#)

Activity instructions: Invite people to describe their own ancestral heritage. How much do you know about your own story? Write or draw a description of your life.

Starting with

- Your name,
- Where you grew up (if you moved choose the place you feel most connected to),
- Where your father and/or mother's family came to Australia from or the people and land of your father and/or mother
- And finally where you live now

My name is Stacey Wilson

My family lived in Tocumwal, NSW. **This is Yorta Yorta land.**

My father's family came from Scotland and England

My mother's family came from England.



AUSTRALIA

I now live in Riddells Creek. **This is Woiworung land.**

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?



Use the map or the link to identify which tribal land you lived on. What do you know about that indigenous group?

Conversation starters/Talk about: Australia has always been a multi cultural country. There were around 600 different indigenous cultural groups or nations in Australia when the first white settlers arrived. Everyone else has come from somewhere else.

Opening the bible:

Something for Home: Print out a card with this link on it

Learn more about the history of our country by accessing Australians Together:

[Sharing our Stories resource](#)

June The Valley of the Dry Bones

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

GROWING SOMETHING NEW



Thinking the theology through:

What is happening in the garden at the moment?

June is the time for pruning, where plants such as roses and fruit tree are cut back to just the barest stalks - kind of like the 'bones' ready for regrowth of leaves and flowers.

Any bulbs you have planted are still dormant but the chill of the winter air is preparing them for spring growth.

You will need: Rainbow chard seeds, potting mix, seedling trays or egg cartons, spoons, spray bottle for watering.

Activity Instructions: Using the spoons to fill each container with soil and then plant out the seeds. Water them. For alternative plant options suitable for your region. [Click here](#)

Conversation starters/Talk about: In his vision Ezekiel saw a great army of bones put back together and come to life. When

we look at these seeds, it is hard to believe that they can become a plant. They are so tiny.

But when they have somewhere to grow and the food, water and light they need they become something else.

God wants us to find a new life in him. He wants us to grow and change and he wants to help us do that.

- When we feel dry and lifeless where do we find hope?
- What feeds us and brings us life?
- How can we bring life and hope to others?

Opening the bible:

Something for home: One of the ways Australia's first peoples marked out the seasons was by the observing plants and animals. What is happening now in your part of Australia? [Check here](#)

July Handling Our Worries

MATTHEW 6:25-34

SAY WHAT?

Thinking the Theology though: When we worry we feel like we are achieving something. We put a lot of time and effort into worrying. But really it does nothing. "Can any of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?" But telling someone to just stop worrying can actually have the opposite effect. It makes us worry about how much we worry!

You will need: Print or write out these brain teasers with the question on the front and the answers on the back.

Activity Instructions: Read out the brainteasers and see how many you can work out.

Say silk 10 times

"What do cows drink?"

Answer: water, did you say milk?

What do you put in a toaster?

Answer: bread, did you said toast?

If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from?

Answer: Greenhouses are made from glass, did you said "green bricks,"?

A plane is flying at 20,000 feet over the NSW and Victorian border. Anyway, during the flight, Two engines fail. The pilot, realizing that the last remaining engine is also failing, decides on a crash landing procedure. Unfortunately the engine fails before he can do so and the plane fatally crashes smack in the middle of the Murray River. Where would you bury the survivors? NSW or Victoria?

Answer: You don't bury survivors.

Without using a calculator - You are driving a bus from Brisbane to Ipswich then onto Toowoomba. In Brisbane, 17 people get on the bus; In Ipswich, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In, Minden two people get

off and four get on, Gatton 11 people get off and 16 people get on. In Iredale, three people get off and five people get on. You then arrive at Toowoomba. What was the name of the bus driver?

Answer: It was YOU!!

Some months have 31 days in them, others have 30, but how many have 28?

Answer: All 12 months have 28 days in them

There are two clocks of different colours: the red clock is broken and doesn't run at all, but the blue clock loses one second every 24 hours. Which clock is more accurate?

Answer: The Red Clock. Twice a day, the red clock is correct while the blue is never correct because of that one second that it is off.

You're in 5th place in a race. You speed up and pass 3rd place. What is your Rank?

Answer: 3rd! If you pass 3rd place, then you are now in 3rd place, not 2nd.

Please don't tell me you got that wrong!

Two fathers and two sons go fishing. After a long day's work, they each caught a fish. When they came home, there was 3 fish. How is this possible?

Answer: There is a Grandfather, a Father, and a Son. The grandfather is the father of the father. the father is father of the son. the father is the son of the grandfather. So there is your 2 fathers and 2 sons.

You dig a hole that is 3mt by 3mt by 3mt. How much dirt is in it?

Answer: None. You dug a hole.



The New Gisborne Community Garden was set up in 2014 as part of the Gisborne Church of Christ and the produce is used to support families in need through a number of local community groups. In 2015 with the assistance of Joanne Russel, an indigenous elder and horticulturalist, we planted out a bush tucker garden. Our garden now also includes a mural titled "In the shadow of Geboor" made up of photographs of this area submitted by local people. Geboor is the original name of Mt Macedon in the Aboriginal Woiwurrung language of the Wurundjeri people.

August Team Jesus

MARK 3:13-19

ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE



Thinking the Theology through:

Jesus' disciples were a mixed bunch. Some fishermen and a scholar, a tax collector and a zealot and a few we don't know what they did before they met Jesus. Some were poor, others better off. Some were loud and confident, others gentle and compassionate.

Some believed in Jesus immediately and others had their doubts. Some of them we know lots about their stories but others hardly anything.

But Jesus gathered them together join him and do what he was doing- sharing good news and stopping evil. But they didn't need to be or look exactly like Jesus to do that.

You will need: tins without labels or sharp edges (alternatively use plasticine), all sorts of bits and pieces such as buttons, pipe cleaners, nuts and bolts, wire etc and blutac to stick them on if you are using tins

Activity Instructions: Invite people to make a disciple and commission them to do what Jesus did. Make them as different as they were from each other.

Conversations starters/ Talk about: Look around our messy church, we are all a bit different too! We do different things, come from different places but we are together because of Jesus.

Invite people to thank God for making us all unique.

Opening the Bible:

Something for Home:

Look around our messy church, aren't we a bit like that too!

We do different things, come from different places but we are together because of Jesus.





Supplement

**GET
MESSY!**



Join Us Online
www.messychurch.org.uk