

being thankful



at HOME

July/August 2020



Hello!

Hope you are doing well. We are certainly living in 'interesting times' – whatever interesting means for you. We have some people who are living with a very different reality to what they were planning or foreseeing at the beginning of the year. We have others who are so thankful that jobs are kept, people are well, and working at home has advantages, etc. etc... So my question to us this month is that no matter what's happening in our lives, how can we be thankful for others, or family, our circumstances, our country and even to God? Another question is: do we as Christians have a role in showing our community that even in these challenging times we can be thankful?

This month the story we are looking at is the Ten Lepers from Luke 17. It is a timely story as we think about what's happening in our world. 10 people were healed by Jesus, as they ran away and only one thought 'Hang on! Maybe I should go back and say thank you.' One of the things we hope we are doing more and more is to say 'thank you'!

To help us to explore the theme of giving thanks, there are a number of elements we use at Messy Church and for Messy Church at home.

- Celebration - exploring the theme through a bible story, prayers and reflection.
- Creativity - activities and craft.
- Hospitality - sharing food.
- We also want Messy Church to be Christ Centered for All Ages.

We hope you enjoy this Messy Church at Home.

God Bless

Messy Church Team

Getting ready for Messy Church at Home:

Invite a member of your household to set up a worship center focus about being thankful. It could be on the dining table or in a special part of your home. Use your own creativity or use this idea. Place a piece of paper on the table and write in large letters THANK YOU down the side of the paper and invite you household members to write or draw something for each letter that they are thankful for.

To begin your Messy Church at home time gather round the worship focus and say "welcome to Messy Church, we are glad to be here".

Celebration

Read the story of the 10 Lepers in Luke 17:11-19 or watch this YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzZUDRrKgl8>

What do you know about the disease Leprosy? It is a terrible skin disease. Leprosy is still a disease in some communities even in Australia today. However in Jesus time Leprosy was made more terrible because not only was a person with Leprosy considered unclean, but they had to live away from their families and communities and they had to call out "unclean, unclean" whenever they came near other people. There was no medicine or cure. So when Jesus was walking by, the lepers would have been very brave to even approach Jesus let alone ask Jesus to heal them. Those around Jesus would have been shocked and probably tried to tell the lepers to stay away.



But Jesus hears them calling out and takes the time to tell them what to do to get healed. The lepers had to do what Jesus said, they had to go and show themselves to the priest, and as they did go, they were healed. Jesus wasn't expecting thanks. But when one leper realizes he had been healed before he got to the priests, he goes back straight away to Jesus to say thanks. He didn't delay, go and see his family first, or even go to the priest first, instead he goes to Jesus who had healed him and in healing given him back his life. The man's praise is loud and he gives glory to God.

Talk about the story.

- What does this story say do you?
- If this story happened today, what would it look like?
- Why should you say thank you?

Prayer

Using post-it-notes or pieces of paper write 'thank you God' prayers and stick them around the house or on the worship center focus.

Song you may like to find a thank you song or enjoy this 'oldie' on YouTube "Ten Lepers" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7awbmqAm7U>

Chorus: Ten unclean and nowhere to go.
Ten men cleansed as clean as snow.
One returned to give God thanks,
but nine went away.

Ten men, lepers in a Hebrew town.
Ten crying: "Lord, won't you please come down."

No hope near 'til one fine day,
Jesus of Nazareth passed that way.
(Chorus)

"Lord make me clean", was their single cry.
"See, how the whole world passes us by.
No man's home will take us in!"
Then Christ bent down to touch their skin.
(Chorus)

Like a tree when it's buds come true,
or a patch of spring that is fresh and new.
Christ restore the ones defiled,
Give them the flesh of a new born child.
(Chorus)

God gives gifts to us every day.
Favours His people in every way.
Hope restored and pain relieved.
Do you ever give thanks for a gift received?
(Chorus)

Thank you Lord, for the summer sun.
For sight and song and good deeds done.
For faith and family and loving friends.
For the day that begins and the night that ends.
(Chorus)

Source: Musixmatch
Songwriters: Miriam Therese (sister) Winter
Ten Lepers lyrics © Vanguard Music Corp.

Creativity

THANK YOU PIZZA

You will need:

- Food preparation gloves especially if it is to share with others outside your household.
- Pizza base, or make your own base. You could use a pre-made pizza and add topping.
- Topping ingredients– your choice – tomato paste, cheese etc. Have some topping that gives a contrast colour.

How:

- Put gloves on to prepare food.
- Cut all your ingredients into small pieces.
- Spread the base with tomato paste.
- Decorate the pizza. Try writing 'Thank You' with one or two topping ingredients.
- Cook the pizza as per instructions.



Think about: We often say thank you to someone by making something, or with food or by giving a present. Who would you like to say thank you to? Have you a memory of a time you received a thank you gift? How did that make you feel?

GIVING TO OTHERS – IN THANKFULNESS FOR ALL WE HAVE



We can express our thankfulness for our life through our generosity to others.

Have a look around your house, sort out clothes, bric-a-brac, and kitchen utensils and put together items that can be re-cycled and given to your local OPP Shop.

You could also purchase items from the OPP Shop to show your support.

Talk about: how does being thankful and generous bring you closer to God's generosity to you?

SOAP CARVING

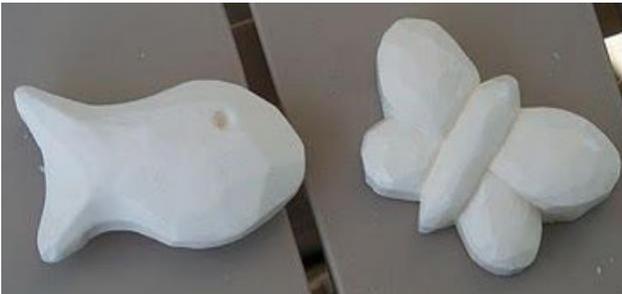
You will need:

- 1 soap block (Sunlight soap or other cheap soap block)
- Dinner or butter knife or sharpened paddle pop stick.

Important instructions:

- Cut away from yourself.
- Always use cutting knives/sticks under adult supervision

Talk about how the 10 lepers were made clean by Jesus. How can Jesus help us to be clean and shaped to be his friend.



SLIME

Gak Slime Ingredients:

Glue (PVA, white craft) Borax, food colouring, water
Gak is one of the most common slime recipes. It's also one of the simplest methods and doesn't require too much exact chemistry to really get the mixture right. The glue contains polyvinyl acetate (PVA) that reacts with the borax to form your gooey substance.



Method:

1. Put equal quantities of glue and warm water into a bowl and mix together
2. Add your food colouring – you don't need much! – and set aside.
3. Mix 1 teaspoon of Borax with 1/2 cup of warm water and dissolve.
4. Add Borax solution to the mixture.
5. Commence vigorous mixing

Talk about: Slime is fun to make and fun to feel - sliding through your fingers. When we think of slime we often think about what it feels like.

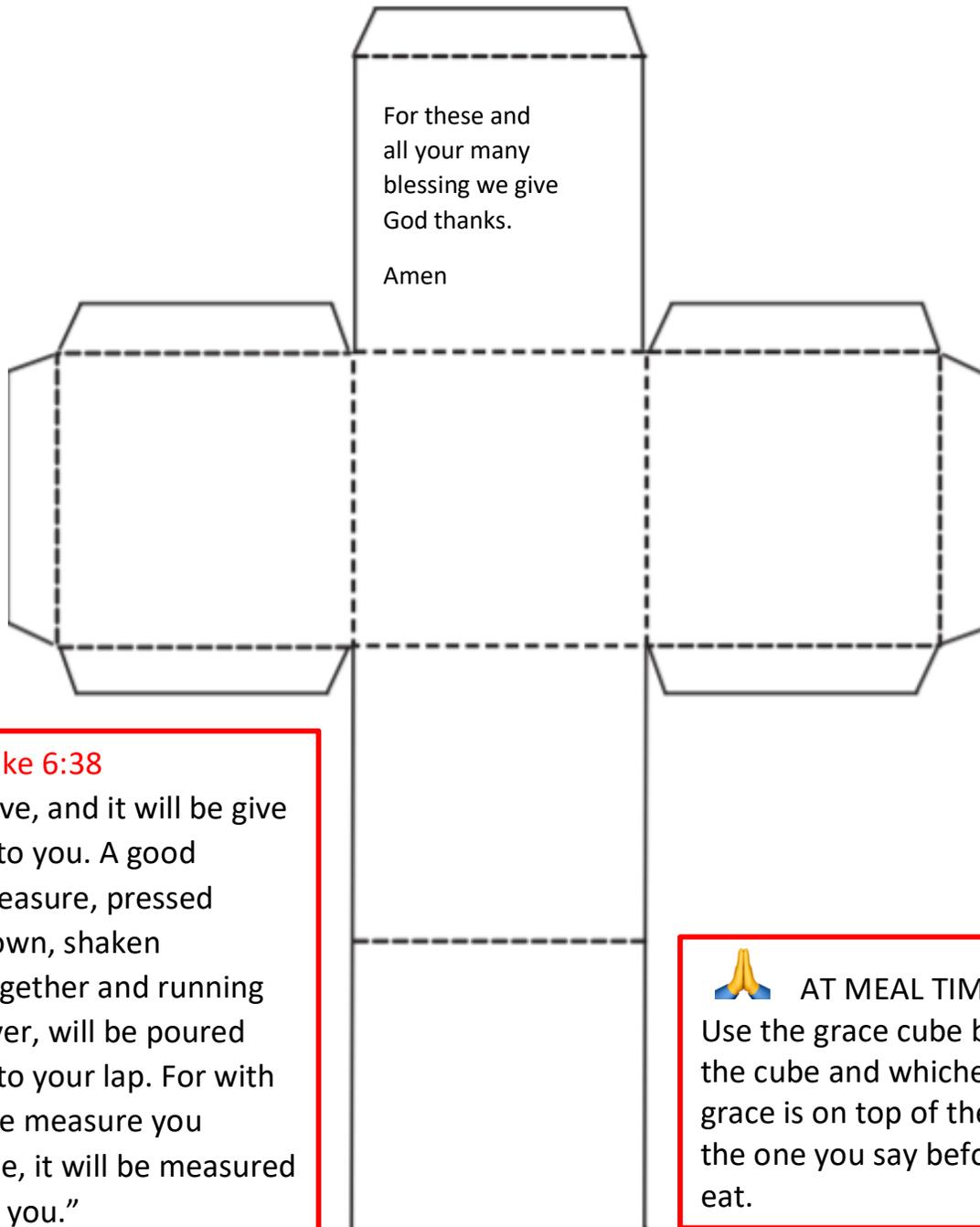
How does being thankful make you feel? About ourselves, our situation and our world?

GRACE CUBE

Being thankful, or saying grace before we begin a meal is a way of saying thank you to God for food and the things that sustain us for life. Traditionally, the term 'grace' comes from the Ecclesiastical Latin phrase gratiarum actio, 'act of thanks'. In Christian theology, the act of saying grace comes from the Bible in which Jesus in Luke 24:30 and the Apostle Paul in Acts 27:35 pray before a meal.

Make a Grace Cube.

- Expand the template and copy it onto card.
- Cut out the cube using the solid lines and fold at the dotted lines.
- Glue the side flaps to construct the cube.
- Write or draw a favorite grace on each side.



Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."



AT MEAL TIMES



Use the grace cube by rolling the cube and whichever grace is on top of the cube is the one you say before you eat.

BEING THANKFUL WITH AN OFFERING

One way that Christians respond to God's goodness, faithfulness and grace is to give a weekly offering to the church. The church uses this offering to support ministry of the church. In the Church offerings go to support the local ministry such as weekly worship, Messy Church, groups, helping others and a lot more. Part of the weekly offering also goes to the wider work of the church within Australia, and in overseas mission. Offerings are not compulsory or a requirement of belonging to the church. Offerings are entirely your response. You are invited to give an offering to your local church through direct debit or cash. Your local minister will be able to guide you and tell you the best way to manage your giving in offerings.

Messy Church Hospitality



Usually Messy Church finishes with a meal together. At Messy Church the hospitality offered reflects the welcome and hospitality that God offers us as members of God's family. This month plan a Messy Church meal that reflects being thankful. Maybe serve the Pizza you made and use the grace cube to say grace or here is another with an interesting tune 😊 you could add this grace to your cube.

Grace: (tune to Barbie Girl)

I am thankful for- a chance to eat once more
It's fantastic, God who gives it
Thanks for health and food, friends and family too
Tasty libation that is this creation

Come on eat it, You can't beat it!
Oh oh oh yeah
Come on eat it, You can't beat it!
O-o-oo o-o-oo
Come on eat it, You can't beat it!
Oh oh oh yeah
Come on eat it, You can't beat it!
Amen, amen!

Blessing

As you finish Messy Church at Home say this blessing together.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
(Hold out your hands as if expecting a present)
And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)
Amen (raise arms)