

Christmas – A *VERY MESSY* CHRISTMAS

date	title/passage	big idea	key verse	story + key question	call to action	metaphor
<p>'A very Messy Christmas'... a twist on the usual 'A Very Merry Christmas.' We'll explore the theme in 3 parts across the 3 Christmas events (Carols, Christmas Eve Sunday and Christmas Day) – Messy PEOPLE (focus on Shepherds), Messy PLACE (focus on no guest room) and Messy PLAN (focus on manger). The baby wrapped in cloths in the manger ends up as a man wrapped in cloths after his death on the cross...God's true King enters the mess to clean us and feed us – by his Spirit.</p>						
CAROLS	Messy PEOPLE Luke 2:1-21	<p>Jesus was born into a messy family, surrounded at birth by messy <i>shepherds</i>, to be the Saviour of messy <i>people like us</i> – the real mess of our sin.</p> <p>[Note: At that time, shepherds were seen as having low or little value... yet here, highest heaven – angels, Jesus himself – meet the lowest of the low.</p>	Luke 2:8 <i>And there were SHEPHERDS living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.</i>	<p>Story: The messy people who are part of every family.</p> <p>Qn: Do you know that Jesus was born into the messiest family ever?</p>	Trust in Jesus to be part of the messy but saved family God is gathering up and cleaning up across all the world to live with him for all eternity.	Rejects
CHRISTMAS EVE (Sunday daytime services)	Messy PLACE Luke 2:1-21	Jesus was born in the lowliest room of the house, where the animals sleep (probably because of the controversy over Mary's pregnancy). Yet the journey to Bethlehem reminds us that he is born into the even messier house of David – to be God's true King who cleans up all the mess (through another journey to Jerusalem).	Luke 2:7 <i>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was NO GUEST ROOM available for them.</i>	<p>Story: the mess that comes to a house at Christmas time.</p> <p>Qn: Jesus came for the lowliest people and was born in the lowliest room... is he too lowly for you?</p>	As we sing 'let every heart prepare him room' ...don't shut Jesus out, but trust in him as King over your life.	Pecking Order
CHRISTMAS DAY (11pm Christmas Eve & Christmas Day)	Messy PLAN Luke 2:1-21	The manger is given as a sign to the shepherds – to find the right baby. Lying in a manger in Bethlehem – the "house of bread" – it's a great sign of the one who will <i>feed souls</i> – when he again is wrapped in cloths after his death for our sins – in God's plan the messy manger leads to a messier cross. His resurrection brings the great feeding at Pentecost (bread festival) – and the great cleanup through God's Spirit.	Luke 2:16 <i>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in THE MANGER.</i>	<p>Story: the mess of our plans at Christmas... so much to plan we can forget the purpose. Also: when you try to point out something to your dog, the dog just looks at your finger, not where it's pointing.</p> <p>Qn: Do we do that with the manger?</p>	When you see the manger on a card, yard, or shops...don't stop at the crib. See what it's pointing to... that this baby is already being spoken of as God's true Saviour and King.	Manger Danger