

TALK ABOUT and TAKE HOME IDEAS

### Mealtime card

- What three words would you use to describe yourself?
- If an angel appeared to you and described you, what three words would you like them to use?
- What difference does it make to know that God thinks you are incredible?

### Think about how...

This session helps us to think about our fears and our feelings about ourselves and to consider how God's words - his peace, his love and his encouragement - can speak into our lives and make a difference: bringing peace where there is fear, bringing courage where there is low self-esteem, bringing strength when we are weak. Gideon thought he was incapable and of no significance but, as he got to know God better, including being able to tell him exactly how he felt, his life changed forever. This session gives us that chance to come closer to God and to hear him speak to us in all our life situations, including nursery, school, work, community and home.

The next **Messy Church** is  
on **Sunday 17th March 2019 3:30** as usual in the hall.

Please put the date in your diary and invite other families to come with you.  
Dates for other Messy Church services on the third Sunday of each month in 2019 are -

17<sup>th</sup> March. **NO Messy Church in April - it's Easter Sunday** 19<sup>th</sup> May ; 16<sup>th</sup> June; 21<sup>st</sup> July; 18<sup>th</sup> Aug; 15<sup>th</sup> Sept; 20<sup>th</sup> Oct; 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

**At All Saints Messy Church**, we are aiming to offer something for families who want an opportunity to be together in a relaxed, supportive and creative environment. We try to make our programme an imaginative mixture of family, fun, friendship, food and faith.

*In the coming weeks, please think about Messy Church and if you could be a helper. We usually run 6 activities each month, could you help with one of them? Talk to Peter or one of the other leaders for more information.*

**Next Sunday, 24th join us for our**

**Morning Celebration service for families and everyone!**

**Morning Celebration is in the main church building we will have our Morning Celebration Service which will start with breakfast at 10:00 am, It includes puppets telling part of the story, songs, an activity and lots more. It will finish about 11:30**

**For more information email or visit our website**

[messychurch@allsaintscoton.org](mailto:messychurch@allsaintscoton.org) [www.allsaintscoton.org](http://www.allsaintscoton.org)

ASCC Messy Church No 60



All Saints,  
Chilvers  
Coton

**Sunday 17th February 2019  
in the Parish Hall**

**Welcome to Messy Church**

### Self-Confidence

**Gideon may well come over as the most self-doubting character in the whole Bible! Gideon expressed doubt in what God could do for him, looking for constant reassurances and proof that what God had said would indeed be true... read more inside....**

From 3:30pm **Welcome, Drinks and Craft Activities**  
Please register then help yourself to a drink and take part in the activities. Please take time to read the bible story and the reflection before you start the activities and take time to do the **"talk about.."** for each of the activities.

4:30 pm **Celebration Time....**

4:50 pm **Meal Time**

You can find more information about the theme & activities inside

**Please take this home with you**

## Today's Story: "Self-confidence"

### Bible Bit.

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.'

'Pardon me, my lord,' Gideon replied, 'but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, "Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?" But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.'

The Lord turned to him and said, 'Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?'

'Pardon me, my lord,' Gideon replied, 'but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.'

The Lord answered, 'I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.' **Judges 6:11-16**

If the doubting label had not been reserved for Thomas, perhaps we could have used it here for Gideon. 'I can't, 'I'm not', 'I'm only, 'We can't..,' In this whole chapter, Gideon may well express himself as the most self-doubting character in the -whole Bible! Moreover, Gideon expressed doubt in what God could do for him, looking for constant reassurances and proof that what God had said would indeed be true.

And every time Gideon expresses his doubt, God responds with reassurances of who he is and what he can do through Gideon. Every time, God is true to his word, doing all that he promises and demonstrating his power and authority.

With us, as it was with Gideon, for all that we are not, cannot or have not, we are held in the hand of the one who is. Almighty God enabled Gideon to complete every task he called him to and will do the same for us today.

Our self-confidence is not found in self-motivational books or inspirational fridge magnets, nor is it held in the record of our past achievements or the lack thereof.

When God calls us out of our comfort zones, we know he has gone before us. When he calls us to speak to someone for him, we know he prepares the way. When God places a desire or idea in our hearts, we know he has already equipped us with the gifts and skills we will need along the way. Our almighty God did not need Gideon to work with him, but he chose to partner with Gideon, reminding us that God sees something special in each of us. Do we hear God whisper that to us today?

**Turn to the back page and read the Mealtime card and the Think About.... God really wants to change our lives for the better.**

## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

### 1 Parachutes

You will make a parachute then later release the parachute as a sign of entrusting your prayer to God.

**Talk about** how, as Gideon got to know God better, he realised he could trust him, which made him braver and stronger. How can we get to know God better?

### 2 Doves of peace

You will make a dove and write messages on its wings. Take it home and then hang your dove up to remind you how God changes Gideon's life.

**Talk about how** God transformed Gideon's life. He was scared, in hiding and lacking in confidence, but then he met with God and things looked totally different. What part of your life would you like God to change?

### 3 Shake it off

Play the game. How many balls can people get rid of in a minute?

**Talk about** how Gideon was doing something nearly as ridiculous as this game at the start of today's story. He was trying to thresh wheat in a winepress, which was a big hole in the ground! You need to thresh wheat on a hilltop to let the wind blow away the chaff and keep the seeds for making into nice things like bread. It was a silly and embarrassing thing to do, and it showed how scared Gideon was. What kind of things make us scared and hide away?

### 4 Where is Gideon hiding?

Hunt for the Gideons who are hidden around the room. Each Gideon has a word on it. Note each word as you find it and, when you have found all the words, make them into a sentence from today's story.

**Talk about** how Gideon was very scared. He thought he was too young and not important enough, but God called him a 'brave and mighty man'. What things do we think we are not good enough for? What things scare us? God is with us and knows how brilliant we really are even when we don't see it.

### 5 A fire on a rock

Make your own edible "fire on a rock"  
**Talk about** how Gideon asked God to show him that he really was God. Gideon brought out some meat and bread to the angel and put it on a rock. When the angel touched it with a stick, it all burned up. What would you like God to do to show you that he really is God?

### 6 Plant a bulb

Decorate your plant pot. Put about 4 cm of compost into the pot then put three bulbs pointy bit up into the compost then cover them with more compost. Water them when you get home. Take a "How to care for your bulbs" leaflet.

**Talk about** as you watch your bulbs grow and change into a flowering plant, remember that God can change us, we can receive courage and strength just like Gideon, when we feel weak or scared.

