

HOW TO MINISTER EFFECTIVELY USING SKITS

Pastor Tyler and Sis. Breana Hodge

Objective:

Reveal to children's ministers the skill sets necessary to present different types of skits in effective ways

"For the word of God is alive and powerful, it is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

- Hebrews 4:12 (New Living Translation)

The Ministry of Skits

Using skits in your children's ministry is a fantastic method of teaching.

The Bible is already alive, but we can bring the Word to life physically to teach powerful lessons using skits.

We know that skits can be entertaining, but our objective is not to provide entertainment. We should minister using skits as a tool to present a lesson on a child's level.

Our goal is to present clearly, so stay true to your church standards, and you *must always* be consistent with the Bible to avoid unnecessary confusion.

Skills for Skits

Make everything extravagant! A good way to practice this is to take a Psalm and read it extravagantly and overemphasized (Psalm 24)

Overemphasize your pronunciation, emotions, facial expressions, body language, tone of voice, and voice fluctuations.

It's ok to use scripts, but some of the best skits I've ever seen was based off ad lib (Improvise. Act freely without restriction). This will allow you to "get into character" in your own way, and will bring an element of surprise to the others involved in the skit. When another person is acting, and hears something really powerful that was improvised the facial expressions and emotion becomes more of a reality than a production.

You can still be a part of a skit if you are a quiet person; there's a big difference between having a quiet personality and being embarrassed to be a part of a skit. You don't have to play a loud talking part of the skit. You can be the goofy quiet one, or even an inanimate object (God's Workshop).

A great game you can play to practice these concepts is "Hitchhiker."

Getting into Character

Whatever role you play in the skit, you have to try and give it your very best.

The diversity of characters is only limited by your imagination. You can make a character out of ANYTHING! Inanimate objects, people that aren't mentioned in a Bible story that we can assume were there, and then obvious main characters.

Ask these questions when you're preparing a character for your skit:

- *Who is the character?* – Examples: Name, birthplace, occupation, age, race, etc. This can help you determine what accent you have, what props or costumes to use, and even what attitude to portray.
- *What role does the character play? What does the character do?* – This could be determining whether he/she/it is a "Good Guy, Bad Guy, or Undecided." What does the character bring to a situation? Do they make the situation tense, hilarious, or meaningful? Try to imagine stepping into the character's shoes and seeing where it lives, its memories and experiences, and its social or economic life. All of these things can contribute to the building of a character.

If it's a Bible story, then you need to make sure you have really studied so you are consistent with the Bible and as equal to the actual character as possible.

Once you've determined the lesson you want to teach with the skit it can be a lot easier to assemble your characters.

The Different Types of Skits

Before we talk about the different types of skits we need to be aware that you need to have an objective _____ that the skit should accomplish. This will be your focus and your reason for even presenting the skit. What is the lesson you want to teach? Once that is answered you can then start processing which method you want to use to teach that concept. Don't let it be general either. Your objective should not be "teaching about Three Hebrew boys walking in a fiery furnace," but let the objective present the story in an applicable way for your kids. Like, "God will protect His faithful children."

Monologue

- A skit in which a single person speaks alone _____.

Since you are the only character in the skit you really have to present yourself as that character in every way possible (dress, age, etc). Try to use props in your monologue as much as possible (fishing net for Peter, trained dove for Noah, etc). You have to be extra careful in making sure you know the story and the character really *well* before presenting because you are speaking from a first-person point-of-view. [Example given: Roman soldier who won Jesus' garment by casting lots]

Narrative / "You're It" Skits

- A skit where a person narrates a story while a person or group of people act it out.

This can be a lot of fun, because you could actually use the kids in this type of a skit as well as other children's ministers. Someone will tell a story, very dramatically and descriptively, using only their voice while others act it out as the story is told.

Dialogue

- A skit where two or more people are interacting _____ with each other to present a story.

There are several different characters you can use in a Dialogue skit. Here are some examples: special _____ guests _____, puppets _____, kids _____, clowns _____, etc.

Be careful that you place people as characters that you have confidence will know the story and the character. You can always practice and fine-tune their ad lib abilities by playing games like “Hitchhiker” or “Freeze.” It’s ok to write out a script or an outline for your other ministers to use in practicing a skit, but avoid using scripts or notes when actually presenting the skit.

A great way to build up your skills in skits is to write down different Bible story scenarios, place them in a bowl, have your children’s ministry team draw a paper from the bowl, give them a few minutes to discuss their objective and characters, and then have them present the skit.

Our goal in skits should be to present them in creative and effective ways that teach our children to apply the principles of God’s Word.

Contact Information

Bro. Tyler & Sis. Breana Hodge

Phone: (760) 223-2179

familyactionministries@gmail.com