

Creating A Cross-age Children's Church Skit Ministry Starring Teens

Harness the energy and talent of teens to transform children's church into a dynamic cross-age ministry, using drama and activities.

Why use *Teens in Children's Ministry*?

- Ministry enhances spiritual growth; teens want to put their faith to work!
- Drama is an outlet for teen talents, energy, and it fulfills their built-in need for fun!
- Peers cheer each other along; ministry builds self-esteem!
- Teens have more energy, time, and spontaneity than adults have.
- Teens flock to food, encouragement, audience approval, and stardom!

Script adlib:

- ◆ Memorize the order of "events" and key lines, not word-for-word. Adlib the dialogue!
- ◆ Rehearse your "freeze cue lines" carefully. POST THE SKIT OUTLINE AT ENTRANCES.

Keep rehearsals to a minimum:

- ◆ Don't rehearse mid-week. Distribute the script one or more weeks in advance, then meet for rehearsal 90 minutes before "show-time" to rehearse the blocking (traffic pattern).
- ◆ Surprise and include the kids; plan entrances and exits around them.
- ◆ Play with the kids and talk with them during the skit. Be careful not to overdo this, though.
- ◆ If you rotate teams, change names. Kids won't accept two Harvey characters, etc.
- ◆ Use one team for multiple services. After skit, they go to church. Use others for songs & activities.

Interrupt the action with a "freeze":

- ◆ At "choice-making" moments, make a sound (bell, horn, etc.) to freeze the actors on stage.
- ◆ Ask questions from the "Sermon Notes." Undo the "moral mind-numbing" of today's media culture.
- ◆ Pastor Rufus presents part of the sermon at this "freeze" as he walks around the frozen actors. Repeat the sound to resume the action. The kids will see if their suggestions are implemented in the skit.
- ◆ If you choose not to use the freezes, BE SURE SERMON MINGLES WITH SKIT!

Teach the way Jesus taught:

- ◆ Skits apply biblical truth to solve the real-life conflicts children face. Portray their environment, use their language, and address their concerns in parable-like stories.
- ◆ Use the visuals, objects, and interactive suggestions provided in the skit/sermon.
- ◆ Use the "imaginary world" of the skit, like Jesus used the "imaginary world" of the parable.
- ◆ Dress as "real kids," not in goofy costumes. Use kids' current toys, interests, and expressions.
- ◆ Use the powerful imaginations of the kids with "pantomime." Let them "pretend" a row of chairs is a bed, etc. Don't build elaborate sets; it makes storytelling a burden.

Skit-related activities:

- ◆ Minister to the various learning styles of the children through skit-related activities each week.
- ◆ Choose from several options provided based on time available and your children's population.
- ◆ Use the actors as small group discussion leaders after the skit.
- ◆ Draw from the "Recall" questions for an optional review session at the end of the series of skits.

How to start SKITuations at your church: (available at skitsource.com)

- ◆ Recruit two adults to join the skit team as directors/actors.
- ◆ Share the *cross-age ministry* vision with the Youth Director. Audition to find four qualified teens.
- ◆ Train additional teens to minister to children using drama and interactive activities that follow the skit.
- ◆ Organize one or more teams to perform weekly, monthly, or in rotation by series. If you use two teams, change the names; the children become attached to their "soap stars"!