

CHANT WITH BIBLE STORYTELLING

Take your listeners on a storytelling journey using a chant.

CHANT:

1. A chant with Bible Storytelling is that the leader tells the story and when he says a specific phrase, the listeners will respond with a word or phrase.
2. The chant allows the listeners to participate as the Bible story is being told.
3. The chant should enhance the Bible story, but never distract from the story itself.

PREPARATION:

1. Whenever you write out the story in your own words, be true to the story in the Bible. Do not embellish the story. The Bible story you tell, will be the oral Bible the listeners hear and learn.
2. Place diagonal lines (/) to separate phrases in the story or scripture.
3. Write out the chant for distribution or to use on the Power Point Presentation.
 - Attention: ■ Consider listeners' capabilities and English knowledge when preparing the responding phrases.
 - Adapt a chant to your situation. If a chant uses phrases too short for your group, increase the words in the phrases.
 - Put words in **bold** letters that are to be vocally emphasized.
 - Underline and put in bold letters the words to be re-emphasized. Vocally emphasize and slowly draw-out these words.
 - Resource: ■ An excellent resource book for using chants with ESL (English as a Second Language) is **Bible Verse Chants** by Glenda Reece.

PRESENTATION:

1. At the appropriate time, distribute the chant to those present or use the Power Point Presentation. If the listeners repeat the same phrase as the leader's phrase, it is optional to distribute copies.
2. Explain any words, phrases or customs that the listeners may not understand.
3. Explain that any words that are:
 - **Bold** in the chant are to be emphasized through the tone of their voices.
 - **Bold and underlined** in the chant are to be spoken slowly and emphasized through the tone of their voices.
4. Tell the Background (Initial Situation) of the story. Keep it brief. Examples:
 - Where is the location of the story? In a village? Along the Nile River? In a home?
 - What event(s) happened before the story? Example: Joseph's brothers hated him, sold him into slavery and he was taken to Egypt. ("*Joseph in Potiphar's Home*")
5. Tell the Bible story using the chant, allowing the group to participate.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHANTS WITH BIBLE STORYTELLING:

1. Leader speaks a phrase and the **listeners repeat the same phrase.**
Bible Story: "Jesus Heals the Blind Man" (Mark 8:22-26)

| LEADER | LISTENERS |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jesus asked him, | Jesus asked him, |
| "Do you see anything?" | "Do you see anything?" |

2. Leader says a phrase and **the listeners say a phrase.** The listeners' phrase is either repeating part of the leader's phrase, or saying a different phrase that will complete and re-enforce the thought. (Options: distribute copies of chant, hold up a picture to describe the word, or pantomime the word for them to say.)
Bible Story: "Creation of the World"

| LEADER | LISTENERS |
|---------------------|----------------|
| God created the | sun |
| to shine during the | day. |
| He also made the | moon and stars |
| To shine during the | night. |

3. Leader tells part of the story and the **listeners join in to emphasize a theme phrase.**
Bible Story: "Samuel Hearing God Calling"
 Explain that every time you hold up your hands to your mouth, they are to say, "Samuel, Samuel."

| LEADER | LISTENERS |
|---|-------------------|
| The Lord called out, (hold hands to mouth) | "Samuel, Samuel!" |

4. Leader tells the story and when a certain word is mentioned, **the listener(s) will either say a phrase to describe that person, or make a sound or action** related to that word, phrase or person. Explain the words and actions before telling the story.
Bible Story: "Jesus Calms the Storm" (Matthew 8:23-27)

| LEADER | KEY WORD | LISTENERS |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| A big storm came. Strong winds | (winds) | <i>Howling like winds and clapping hands.</i> |
| hit against the boat. | (hit) | Clap hands loudly together |
| The water from the waves | (waves) | <i>Arms moving up and down like a wave.</i> |
| came into the boat | (boat) | <i>Hands up high and come down toward the boat, saying "SPLASH!"</i> |

Attention: Be creative. Create a chant using a mixture of the above types of chants listed and/or create a new type of chant.

CONCLUSION:

(Use one or more options.)

- **STOP** ■ After the chant, stop. You are finished.
- **PRAYER** ■ After the chant, pray with your listeners.
- **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT** ■ After the chant, state the Devotional Thought. It is a Life Lesson (Bible truth) from the story that applies to the listeners' lives.
- **DEVOTIONAL CYCLE** ■ After the chant, state the Life Lesson (Bible truth) from the story that applies to the listeners' lives. Then do the Devotional Cycle:
 - 1st Explain what the Life Lesson means.
 - 2nd Illustrate the Life Lesson. Give an example.
 - 3rd Apply the Life Lesson to the listeners' lives.
- **QUESTIONS** ■ After the chant, ask questions, allowing the listeners' to respond.
- **ACTIVITY** ■ After the chant, do an activity. Examples: retell the story using pantomime and/or drama; interaction by interviewing a volunteer who is suppose to be one of the characters in the story, etc.

Attention: For examples see website:
www.biblestorytelling.org/Devotions/

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