

# DRAMA WITH BIBLE STORYTELLING

Take your listeners on a storytelling journey using drama.

## DRAMA:

1. Drama is acting out the part of a character in the story. The person speaks and uses expressive movements to portray his character or scene in the story.
2. Allow the drama to help the listeners to visualize the story, but do not allow the gestures, costumes, and/or props to distract from the Bible story.
3. Be true to the Bible story when telling the Bible story. Do not embellish the story. The Bible story you tell, will be the oral Bible the listeners hear and learn.
4. Drama impacts the listeners' senses by seeing and hearing the story.
5. Volunteers who interact in the drama are allowed to participate in the story journey, as well as taking all the listeners in the group on a Bible story journey.

## PREPARATION:

1. Set up the scene where the story is taking place.  
Mentally visualize where the scenes will be at the locality where the story will be told.  
Example:
  - In the story of "Jesus Visiting Mary and Martha," where is the door to their house? Where will Jesus be sitting? Where is Martha? What will she be doing? Where is Mary? What is she doing?
2. Choose to use or not use costumes.  
Keep the costumes simple. If working with internationals, use costumes appropriate and available to them. In some countries, certain costumes (style/design/colors) are offensive or have a different significance than what it is to the storyteller's viewpoint. If internationals are involved, ask their advice beforehand, "Is this scarf alright to use in your country? Why not?" If not appropriate, avoid using it.  
Example:
  - Use robes, a long scarf, a shawl, etc.
3. Choose to use or not use props.  
Keep the props for the scenes simple. Use props familiar with the people. If the prop is not familiar to the listeners, explain what it is before telling the story, such as a "threshing fork." If working with internationals, one prop may mean one thing to the storyteller while it means another thing in their culture. Avoid props that are offensive to them. If in doubt, ask someone beforehand, "What does this item mean to you? Is it offensive?"  
Example:
  - Place a chair where Jesus will sit ("Jesus Visits Mary and Martha").
  - Use a shepherd's staff (such as stories about Moses or David).
4. Choose to use or not use sounds.  
Allow the sounds to move the listeners' senses. Avoid any inappropriate sounds and frightening sounds. Do not let the sounds distract the listeners from the story itself.  
Example:
  - Use the sound of rain on a CD or sound machine ("Jesus Calms the Storm").
5. Practice the group and monologue dramas before presenting it.  
Practice helps the role players to remember their individual parts, feel less awkward and have more self-confidence, as well as correlating the movements of all the characters to work together more smoothly. As a result, the presentation allows a powerful Bible story journey for everyone.  
Example:
  - Practice the drama of "Jesus Visits Mary and Martha" on website before presenting it.  
[www.biblestorytelling.org/Devotions/Bible Story Drama/Pantomime: "Jesus Visits Mary and Martha"](http://www.biblestorytelling.org/Devotions/Bible%20Story%20Drama/Pantomime%20-%20Jesus%20Visits%20Mary%20and%20Martha)

## **DIFFERENT TYPES OF DRAMAS WITH BIBLE STORYTELLING:**

### **1. Group Drama**

- The story is divided into parts: narrator and major character(s) in the story. The story is practiced beforehand.
  - The leader takes the narrative part. People are designated to be one of the characters in the story. Beforehand:
    - **Option 1:** The leader practices with each person, telling them their parts and allowing them to practice their parts.
    - **Option 2:** The leader hands out a script and allows them to practice their parts.
- When the Bible story is ready, dramatize the story in front of the entire group.

### **2. Monologue Drama**

- One person takes the part of the major character in the story. Tell the story in “first person” tense, such as “I am Elijah, a prophet.”
- Example:
  - One person is Esther and tells her story.
  - One person is Elijah and tells his story.
  - One person is the crippled man Peter healed and tells his story.

### **3. Interactive Drama**

The storyteller tells the story. Then the storyteller retells the story as volunteers interact with drama as the story is being retold.

Examples: (Bible story: “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha”)

**Option 1:** Tell the Bible story. Ask for three volunteers: one for Jesus, another for Martha and another for Mary. Ask these volunteers to use their own gestures and words at the appropriate time for their character. Then the storyteller/leader narrates the story. At the appropriate time, pause and allow each volunteer to act out his character’s role.

**Option 2:** Tell the Bible story. Ask for five volunteers: one for Jesus, another for Martha, another for Mary, and two for the narrators. Then the leader distributes copies of the script of the drama. Without practicing, the volunteers dramatize the story to all the group. Although my script example of the Bible story of Mary and Martha uses two narrators, you may use one person as the only narrator. The narrator could be the leader/storyteller.

- Read the Bible story “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha” on website:

[www.biblestorytelling.org/Devotions/](http://www.biblestorytelling.org/Devotions/)

[Bible Story Drama/Pantomime: “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha”](#)

**Option 3:** Tell the Bible story. Then do a spontaneous drama activity with the group.

- Example:

Interview characters in the story.

Tell the Bible story of “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha.” Then the leader/storyteller asks for two volunteers: one for Mary and another for Martha. The leader will hold up a microphone and acts as if he is interviewing them for a television show. The volunteers use their creative abilities to answer the questions.

Examples of interview questions:

Interview Martha:

- Martha, how did you feel when Jesus came to your house?
- Martha, what did you do when Jesus came to visit you?
- Martha, what did Jesus say?
- Martha, why do you think Jesus said that?

### Interview Mary:

- Mary, how did you feel when Jesus came to your house?
- Mary, what did you do when Jesus came to visit you?
- Mary, why did you sit at Jesus' feet?

Afterwards, comment to everyone:

- Are we going to be like Martha, too busy to stop and listen to Jesus? Or are we going to be like Mary, stopping to take time to be with Jesus....such as praying, reading our Bible and worshipping our Lord? The choice is ours.

## **CONCLUSION:**

(Choose one or more options.)

### **Option 1: Stop**

- After the Bible story using drama, stop.

### **Option 2: Prayer**

- After the Bible story using drama, lead in prayer.

### **Option 3: Devotional Thought**

- After the Bible story using drama, state the Devotional Thought. It is a Life Lesson (Bible truth) taken from the story that applies to the lives of the listeners.
- Example: In the Bible story of "Jesus Visits Mary and Martha," say, "May we be like Mary and stop our activities to listen to Jesus through prayer, reading God's Word (Bible) and worshipping our Lord in church."

### **Option 4: Discussion Questions**

- After the Bible story using drama, ask one or more questions, depending upon the time available. Allow the listeners to answer.  
Example: In the Bible story of "Jesus Visits Mary and Martha," ask:
  - What did Mary do when Jesus came to visit?
  - What did Martha do when Jesus came to visit?
  - What are some ways we can make time to be with Jesus?
  - Suggestion: Say: "Let us pray. Dear Jesus, help us to stop and take time to be with you through praying to you, reading our Bible and worshipping you."

Example: In the Bible story of "Jesus Visits Mary and Martha," ask:

- What was Martha doing when Jesus came to visit them?
- What was her sister Mary doing when Jesus was visiting them?
- Why was Martha upset at her sister Mary?
- Who did Martha turn to when she was upset?
- Did Jesus listen to her? What did he say?
- Will God listen to us when we are upset? Why?
- Suggestion: Say, "Let us have silent prayer and pray to God about our concerns or about things that are upsetting us." Then take a few moments to pray silently.

Copyright © 2014 by Doris Day. Permission is granted to use all or parts of "Drama With Bible Storytelling" for non-commercial purposes provided this copyright statement is included on all pages containing material from the document. Written permission is required for all commercial uses.