

PANTOMIME WITH BIBLE STORYTELLING

Take your listeners on a storytelling journey using pantomime.

PANTOMIME:

1. Pantomime with Bible Storytelling is portraying a story by expressive movements of the body (face, hands, arms, feet, etc.). In many ways, pantomime is interwoven with drama.
2. Pantomime to portray a scene, action and/or character in the story.
3. Allow the pantomime to help the listeners visualize the story, but do not allow the gestures to distract from the Bible story.
4. Be true to the Bible story when you tell the Bible story. Do not embellish the story. The Bible story you tell, will be the oral Bible the listeners hear and learn.
5. Pantomime impacts people by seeing and hearing the story.
6. Volunteers who interact in the pantomime are allowed to participate in the story journey, as well as taking all the listeners on a Bible story journey.

SCENERY:

1. Before telling and pantomiming the story, the storyteller mentally visualizes 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. As story is being told, the storyteller either looks that direction, raises his arm and gestures towards that direction, or walks over to that place.
Example:
 - Look towards the door of the house where Jesus comes to visit.
 - Gesture for Jesus to come in and motion for him to sit on the chair.
 - Gesture to show Martha is busy (such as cooking the meal in the kitchen).
 - Gesture to where Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening.
3. Choose to use props or not. Use props familiar with people. If the prop is not familiar to the listeners, explain what it is before telling the story, such 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?” Keep props simple.
Example:
 - Place a chair where Jesus would be sitting.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF PANTOMIMES WITH BIBLE STORYTELLING:

1. A One-Person Pantomime

Tell the story verbally while pantomiming the Bible story. This is done by one person.

Example:

- In the story of “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha,” you will narrate the story using gestures to portray the story visually.

2. Two-Or-More-Persons Pantomime

Tell the story, using one’s own words. After the storyteller finishes, he will ask the group for volunteers. Then the storyteller retells the story with the volunteers pantomiming characters in the story.

Example:

- In the story of “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha,” the storyteller will need three volunteers: one for Jesus, another for Martha and another for Mary. Ask these volunteers not to speak but pantomime (act out and use gestures) to portray their character as the story is retold. Now the storyteller retells the story with the volunteers pantomiming their characters in the story at the appropriate time.

3. Three-Cycle Pantomime

Do a three-cycle pantomime of the story. This helps the listeners to learn the story.

1st The first time the storyteller tells the Bible story while also using pantomime.

2nd The second time the storyteller asks his listeners to stand, listen to the story and do the gestures with him. Then for the second time the storyteller tells the story with the listeners imitating his gestures.

3rd The third time the storyteller tells the listeners that he will now only use gestures; no words will be spoken. The listeners are to think about the story as they imitate his gestures. Then, for the third time, the storyteller tells the story through gestures while the listeners imitate his gestures, thinking about the story in their minds.

Example:

- Read the Bible story “Jesus Heals the Paralytic Man” on website:

[www.biblestorytelling.org/Devotions/Devotion: “Paralytic Man”](http://www.biblestorytelling.org/Devotions/Devotion:ParalyticMan)

4. Tableaux

The storyteller tells the Bible story. Then he divides his group of listeners into two or more smaller groups. Each group is assigned a scene which they will portray as a frozen imagine, not moving after moving into their positions. Give a few minutes for each group to decide what frozen imagine they want to do to portray that scene. Then the storyteller calls everyone back. As he retells the story, he will pause at each scene to be portrayed. During the pause, the appropriate group will move into position and freeze, remain still, depicting that scene. After a few moments, the storyteller continues with the story and that group quietly moves away. At the appropriate time, the other group(s) continue coming forward to do their frozen pantomime scenes until the story is completed.

Example:

- In the story of “Jesus’ Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem”:
 - Scene 1: Two disciples get the colt for Jesus.
 - Scene 2: Garments are put on the colt and on the ground.
 - Scene 3: Jesus rides the colt towards Jerusalem as people hold palm trees and shout, “Hosanna!”
 - Scene 4: Jesus wept as he saw the city of Jerusalem, and people wondered who this man was.

CONCLUSION:

(Choose one or more options.)

Option 1: Stop

- After the Bible story using pantomime, stop.

Option 2: Prayer

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

Option 3: Devotional Thought

- After the Bible story using pantomime, 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 the Bible and worshiping our Lord.”

Option 4: Discussion Questions

- After the Bible story using pantomime, ask one or more questions, depending upon the time available. Allow the listeners to answer the questions.
- Example: Bible story of “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha”
 - 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 worshiping you.”

Example: Bible story of “Jesus Visits Mary and Martha”

- 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.

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