

## Why Drama?

Drama is a **powerful** and effective way of exploring the Gospel.

It can appeal to all **senses** and cover a range of **learning styles**.

Used well, drama is **engaging** and can incorporate active participation.

❖ **LEV VYGOTSKY, Russian psychologist, believed .....**

❖ Drama may cross the **literacy culture**.

*Drama involves the expression of a variety of intelligences, and allows for exploration of the Bible with lessened emphasis on literacy.*

## What does the Bible say?

Deuteronomy 6: 4 – 7, Proverbs 22:6 - exhorts parents to train children in the ways of God.

Matthew 28:16-20 – go and make disciples

In all four Gospels, Jesus uses everyday examples; visual /practical and stories.

Acts 2:42-47 – in the early church, four categories of discipleship are identified – worship, instruction, fellowship and expression.

These passages identify components that are essential to a discipleship ministry for children.

Drama can be used in Evangelism and Discipleship.

## What is Drama in ministry?

Drama might involve -

Storytelling, mime, puppetry, clowning/juggling/circus  
Singing, poetry, minimalist theatre, readers' theatre, role play,  
historical recreation, Bible application.

At –

School SRE

Midweek kidsclub

Family all age service

Holiday club

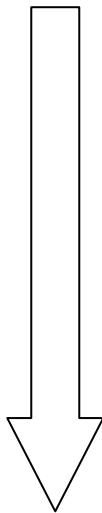
Outreach event

Supaclub

## Drama - How?

The best way to teach the Bible using drama as the medium is to use the Bible as the starting point. (Deut 6: 6-7)

### The process



- Warm up games** – getting ready for drama
- ❖
- Skill development exercises**
- ❖
- Improvisation** – Bible theme, character or event
- ❖
- Workshopping** ideas (script)
- ❖
- Playbuilding** (scene on scene)
- ❖
- Rehearsal** (refining process) (script/video)
- ❖
- Presentation** (work in progress)
- ❖
- Performance** (fully rehearsed) (script/video)

## Drama as a learning medium

### Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

<sup>23</sup>Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.

<sup>24</sup>Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.

<sup>25</sup>The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

<sup>26</sup>He replied, "You of little faith. Why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

<sup>27</sup>The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"



### Some Food for thought

- ❖ Scripts can be a great resource for drama, but it is hard to find good ones.
- ❖ Remember, not all children can read fluently.
- ❖ Using a script requires specific skills and should be the result of a process.
- ❖ An alternative is to get the children to devise their own scenes based on the Bible, and developed under the guidance of the leader.

### **Luke 19:1-10 (CEV)**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was going through Jericho, <sup>2</sup> where a man named Zacchaeus lived. He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich. <sup>3-4</sup> Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like. <sup>4</sup> But Zacchaeus was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today."

<sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> Everyone who saw this started grumbling, "This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."

<sup>8</sup> Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "I'll give half of my property to the poor. And I'll now pay back four times as much to everyone I've ever cheated."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."



### **Drama terms**

Character/Characterisation

Improvisation

Kinesics & Mime

Playbuilding

Presentation / performance

### **Are Technicals important?**

Costumes

Props

Set

Music and sound

Lighting

Spatial arrangement

Do I need amplification?

### **Matthew 9:27-31(NIV)**

<sup>27</sup>As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"<sup>28</sup>When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

<sup>29</sup>Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you";

<sup>30</sup>and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."

<sup>31</sup>But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

## **In a nutshell**

Drama is a very effective tool in ministry.

It can be used as a way of presenting the Bible or applying the Bible in the form of a play.

Remember that using a script requires skills to do well. Why not use the Bible as the script?

In children's ministry, drama can be very effective as an educational tool, for the children to discover and explore the Bible.

Drama can cross literacy barriers.

