*Edit this page to fit your ministry setting. Then remove this note.*

**LARGE GROUP PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES**

# **A Visit from the Traveler:**

The Traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all through the world of the Bible, discovering wonderful deeds God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God’s word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

# **Imagination Theater:**

Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion, using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God’s word. Open the Bible to the page you will be presenting. Be amazed and delighted in what you find there. Then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called on stage. An adult assistant will be helpful in bringing children to the front and preparing them.

# **Mystery Box:**

The Mystery Box contains objects that will help the presenter tell the Bible event in a creative fashion. They can be lifted out and shown as the story is told. Another option is to have a hole cut in the top of the box so that a child could put a hand in and guess what the object is before it is shown.

# **Video:**

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to the precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or video projector. Dim the lights before showing. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting them to see what happens by watching the video. Also, you can introduce the video by inviting them to watch for special actions or words.

#### A Visit from a Dramatized Character:

Ask the children to put on their Imagination Hats so they can imagine they are meeting a character from the Bible. Then a costumed adult presents the Bible event, telling it from first person point of view. This can be the presenter or a guest actor. If the presenter performs as the character, then he should make the transition with a bit of dramatic flair. He turns his back to the audience and puts on some costume pieces. When he turns back around to face the audience, he has been dramatically transformed into another character. With new voice inflection, he tells his story.

# **Simple Storytelling:**

Reading a Bible story or telling the Bible event can be done effectively with expressive voice and dramatic gestures. Children can express part of the story by repeating a phrase or acting out the motions.

## **Action Pantomime:**

### An action pantomime gives children the opportunity to act out the Bible event in unison as directed by the presenter. The presenter says a line and does an action. The children join in echoing the action.

1. **Tandem Story Tell:**

Before beginning each sketch, have the children put on their Imagination Hats. They will be meeting two actors who are pretending to be characters from today’s Bible event. In tandem storytelling, two storytellers stand on opposite sides of the stage and tell the Bible event back and forth in short sentences or phrases. The storytellers act as if they do not realize the other person is there. They may or may not be dressed in costumes. Ideally, the storytellers have the script memorized. But if that is not possible it is also okay for them to read the script. The key to tandem storytelling is to keep each character’s phrases short and keep the energy level high. At the end of the sketch, the storytellers will sometimes discover each other and the sketch will end with them conversing together.