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

**HOW TO GET THE AUDIENCE TO PARTICIPATE**

1. **Make clear expectations of what they are to do.**

Tell them what to do, when to do it and how to do it. Sometimes you will nod with your head to signal a pause or mouth words with the audience so they can follow the cue. Help them know what you expect. Help them experience success. Never criticize the audience for a lack of response. Sometimes actions may be embarrassing or confusing. The audience may not want to participate. Instead of criticizing, make light of it and move on.

1. **Make audience responses simple.**

If the audience is doing a refrain, it must be simple enough to be remembered. Better yet, it can be written down on poster board and flashed up when it is their turn. When audience participants come forward, make sure they have a role to play.

1. **Understand your audience.**

With preschool children, be sure you use simple responses and easy group participation activities. With elementary and pre-teen students, be cautious not to make their responses too childish. Don’t make them embarrassed to participate. Don’t emphasize their response so much that they lose the main point of the message.