

Table of Contents

Why Dramatize?	1
Different Ways to Dramatize	3
Easy Costumes	5
Simple Props	6
Getting Started	7
Story Notes	10
Dramatizing With Toys	25
Special "Story Meals"	27
Family Reunion In Egypt	28
Passover	29
Farewell-To-Haman Banquet	31
Welcome-Home Party	34
How To Make a Simple Cape	35
How To Make an Instant Tunic	37

Why Dramatize?

"Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can show forth all His praise?" Psalm 106:2

Samson, his sweatshirt bulging with "muscles," fights off an endless onslaught of Philistines.

King Ahab dies in his Radio Flyer chariot.

Jael serves a glass of milk to Sisera in the backyard tent.

Gideon and his little army stalk through the darkened house with flashlight torches and paper-towel-tube-trumpets.

Noah, his family, and two of every kind of stuffed animal file into the refrigerator box.

It's story time!

"We will not hide them from [our] children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He hath done...that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." Psalm 78:4 and 7

God, in all His glory and power, is revealed in His Word. The stories of the Bible -- stories of heroes and villains, blessing and discipline, courage and cowardice -- all point us to God. We see God delivering His children, and directing events and moving men's hearts. We see what God does in men and through men.

All this is recorded for our admonition (I Cor. 10:11). We are not to hide these stories from our children. We are to tell the Bible stories to them so that they can see God's "strength and His wonderful works," so they can "set their hope in God," and so they will "keep his commandments." The stories point us and our children to God.

Everyone loves a story -- especially children. And children love to act out the stories they hear. Watch them play. Cowboys and Indians, house, cops and robbers, dolls, hospital, army -- much of their play centers around pretense and role playing.

A child's natural love for drama provides a wonderful opportunity for teaching spiritual truths. Outside with the wagon, a tree, and a wading pool, or inside with some sheets, a flashlight and a few cardboard boxes -- some simple costume materials and a little encouragement can inspire a lot of learning, and a lot of fun.

Our family really enjoys acting out Bible stories. It is one of our favorite Sunday afternoon activities.

Simple dramatizing of stories and other Scripture passages:

- Helps young children pay better attention to Bible reading times and helps them listen for details.
- Helps young children understand the stories better.
- Helps children remember stories better.
- Helps children see the pattern of God's faithfulness throughout history.
- Helps children more clearly perceive the character of God.
- Helps children see the consequences of man's decisions.
- Helps children think through and better understand Scripture passages (such as the Proverbs).
- Provides an effective method of "testing," to see how well a child listens to, and understands, a story.
- Involves the more active child or kinesthetic learner.
- Brings the Bible to life! Children realize that the people in Scripture were *real* people living *real* lives, just like we are.

The unbelievable foolishness of Pharaoh and his army, and God's faithful deliverance of the Israelites, are much more graphic when the soldiers and chariots are swallowed up by our "Red Sea sheet" folding over them.

The children have a better understanding of man's sin and God's justice after they dig up Achan's booty under the tent and then take him and his family out to be stoned.

Everyone remembers Zacchaeus's repentance after the many times we have climbed down the dogwood tree to take Jesus home with us.

Besides helping our children remember and understand the various stories in the Bible, we are also making memories as we play-act together. We laugh until our sides ache over our little Jael's giggles as she hammers the "tent peg" into Sisera's head. We smile at the eagerness of the king's little horse, as it paws the ground and whinnies, waiting to take Mordecai through the streets.

We will always chuckle when we recall 3-year-old-Johanna-starring-as-Esther, sitting in King (Daddy) Ahasuerus's lap.

"What do you want, Queen Esther? I'll grant you up to half the kingdom."
Her innocent ad lib reply, "Lipstick, please."

