



### **Scene Three: God Sends Jesus**

Behind the barrier, the Father and Jesus think of a plan to destroy the barrier wall. God points to Jesus, then points to the other side of the wall (signifying that Jesus will come to earth).

Next, God makes motions of holding a baby, a child growing up, and then dying on the cross.

Jesus repeats these motions and then together they select Mary (who is sleeping on the other side of the wall).

The Father and Jesus embrace, and then Jesus steps out of sight.

God wakes Mary, shows her the motions of holding a baby and a child growing up.

Mary rejoices at the news, then receives baby Jesus—handed from the Father across the barrier wall.

### **Scene Four: The Life of Jesus**

Have Mary re-enter with adult Jesus.

Several other characters enter, including a blind person and a lame person.

Jesus signifies that He loves them, and then points to the barrier with sadness.

Jesus heals both the blind and the lame person. (Note: If anyone in your family or team can do gymnastics, this is the perfect place for a flip or handspring.)

Afterwards, all the people join hands in a circle and rejoice around Jesus.

Scene ends with everyone bowing down in a circle around Jesus.

### **Scene Five: The Death of Jesus**

The devil enters and beckons the soldier to take Jesus.

With mimed motions, have the soldier whip Jesus, beat him, put a crown of thorns on him, and then “nail” him to an imaginary cross on the barrier wall.

Jesus expresses pain as he hangs on the cross, as Mary and several others mourn his death.

As he dies Jesus drops His head, and then falls to the ground.

The devil and the soldier rejoice together over their victory.

Scene ends with the devil and soldier with one foot each on Jesus’ back and fists raised in triumph.

### **Scene Six: The Resurrection**

Behind the barrier, God breathes life into Jesus.

Jesus jumps up, causing the soldier and the devil to fall on the ground.

At this very moment, the banners are reversed to show their creation pictures.

Several women come to the place where Jesus had been, but find him gone.

Jesus appears to them and instructs them to tell the others that He is risen.

Jesus goes to the Father and they embrace.

One by one, different people bow to Jesus, then come to the Father.

### **Scene Seven: Hardened Soldier Comes to Christ**

Lastly, several people go to the soldier who had killed Jesus.

They motion that Jesus is alive and that the soldier too, can come to God.

Satan re-enters, and reminds the soldier of how he had nailed Jesus to the cross.

The soldier struggles with the decision of following Jesus or the devil, then finally throws his robe at Jesus’ feet and bows before Him.

At the conclusion, all who were saved bow in a circle before God and Jesus with outstretched arms.

The devil crawls in defeat across the front of the stage, ending in a final collapse.

## **CHILDREN’S MINISTRY**

Over 35 percent of the world’s population is under the age of 15; in developing countries, the percentage sometimes reaches 50. Over 85 percent of all Christians receive Christ before the age of 18, yet the vital area of children’s ministry is often overlooked.

### **How to Have an Effective Children’s Evangelism Crusade Overseas**

#### **1. Go to Where the Kids Are**

Instead of trying to get a large group of children to come to you, have your crusade in a place where children already are. We cannot expect unbelievers to come to church, we must go to them. (Examples: crowded neighborhoods, parks, beaches, homes, street corners, schools and recreation centers.)

## 2. Let the Children Know that You Are There

Begin by playing some fun children's music. Set up a crusade area with a puppet stage and balloons. Enthusiastically encourage children to come over. Use a puppet, balloons, or clown to catch their attention as you invite them.

## 3. At the Climax, Share the Gospel Message

Using object lessons as you share the plan of salvation. Make certain you preach simple enough so that everyone understands you (children, teens and adults alike). Be excited and energetic as you realize that your words of salvation will change people's lives.

## 4. Have the People Respond

After preaching, bring the people to a point of decision. Give an opportunity to make Christ their Lord and Savior. Ask them to bow their heads and raise their hands or come forward, depending on the situation. Make sure that all ages understand what it means to be saved, then lead everyone in a simple sinners' prayer. For example:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I have done wrong things, called sin, and that I deserve to die, but I thank you, Lord, that you died on the cross for my sins. I ask you now to come into my heart and life and to forgive me of my sins. You are now my Lord and Savior. I love you, Jesus. Amen."

## 5. Help the New Believers to Grow

After the salvation prayer, make sure everyone understands what they just did (especially the younger children). You may want to review the salvation object lesson or do another short teaching. Afterward, actively teach on how to grow as a Christian. Emphasize the importance of reading the Bible, attending a strong Christian church regularly, praying every day (talking to God), telling others about Jesus, and obeying parents and teachers. If possible, hand out a booklet or tract geared for children and get the names and addresses of those who responded. You or a local church can then follow up on these people with either a visit, a follow-up meeting or by starting up a weekly home group in the area.

## PUPPETRY

Puppets are easy to use but it takes practice to become efficient. Following are several points to help the new puppeteer learn and master this skill:

### 1. Mouth Movement

The most vital step is synchronizing the puppet's mouth with its voice. There should be an opening movement for each syllable, instead of a random snapping motion. The mouth should open wide on accented syllables, while opening slightly on unaccented syllables. When moving the mouth, make sure that only the bottom jaw of the puppet moves (your thumb). The top of the head (your other four fingers) should remain still. In other words, do not "flip the lid" of the puppet.

### 2. Use Effective Entrances and Exits

Instead of just "popping up" out of nowhere, have the puppets enter as if they are walking up steps or a ramp. Other methods could be an "elevator" entrance (complete with a bell sound—but make sure you are in an area where children will know what an elevator is), or a "trap door" exit (with a falling yell).

### 3. Puppets Eye Contact

Keep the head of the puppet down so the audience can see its eyes. Do not speak to the ceiling or to the floor. Keep the puppet looking around the audience but do not continually bob its head.

### 4. Use the Entire Puppet

Make sure that the puppet's entire body can be seen, not only its head. If it has arms, be sure to keep them in front of the stage. Also, don't let the puppeteer's arm or body be seen.

### 5. Use the Entire Stage

Instead of keeping the puppet in one place, have it move across the stage, forward and backward, side to side.

### 6. Utilize the Puppet's Arms

If your puppet has arms, they should not just hang motionless. Instead, attach simple rods or wrist bands to give them movement. (You can make these out of metal clothes hangers.)

Arms can be used to express emotion, point, or do simple motions such as wiping eyes, covering mouth, or folding hands in prayer. Other puppets use your arms (such as a big "Cookie Monster" puppet. You can have this kind of puppet do motions to songs, carry in objects or props, brush their hair, etc. If a puppet has two human arms, you will need two puppeteers: the taller person behind to oper-



ate the head, and the shorter person in front to operate both arms. If you only have one puppeteer, he or she can operate the head with one hand, and one of the puppet's arms with the other.

### 7. Give the Puppet a Distinct Character

Each puppet should have its own personality, voice and characterization. This can be anything from a cowboy puppet with a rough, gravelly drawl, to a stuffy professor with very meticulous movements; a "not-so-bright" puppet with slow, dopey speech, to a high-pitched feminine southern belle type. Whichever personality is chosen, it is important to remain consistent. Do not use more than one personality per puppet during the same program.

### How to Use Puppets in a Different Language

It is often a big challenge to figure out how to use puppets when the children speak a different language than the puppeteer. Although it will be a new experience, possibly difficult to begin with, do not be afraid to try. In many places, children have never seen a puppet and do not have access to television, so puppets can be very effective in drawing a crowd. Following are some ideas to help you learn how to use puppets in a different language situation.

1. Learn a few key phrases in the foreign language that the puppet can say (such as hi, good-bye, yes, no, hallelujah, praise the Lord, and Jesus loves you). The leader can then ask the puppet questions which can be answered by these simple words.

2. Have the puppet only make animal sounds. You can then "interpret" what the puppet is saying, and then your interpreter will translate what you say for the audience.

3. Have the interpreter translate what the puppet is saying.

4. Teach your interpreter to use puppets and have an interpreter puppet. Children usually think this is very funny.

5. Get a children's singing tape or up-beat contemporary tape in the foreign language, and have the puppet mouth the words. Make sure you practice synchronizing the movements. (*Puppet Productions* has entire recorded

puppet shows in Spanish.)

6. Purchase a pre-recorded puppet skit in the foreign language and practice having the puppets mouth the words.

7. Teach a local worker to use puppets and let them talk to the children in their own language.

8. Use a ventriloquist-style puppet as a drawing card, making animal sounds or saying "hello" while walking up and down a street. Have a local person walk with you as you invite children to come to a nearby crusade.

9. Have the puppets sing an upbeat children's song in English. Many countries enjoy American music, even if they cannot understand the words. With this method, you can still draw a crowd, simply out of curiosity.

### Sample Puppet Skit

(This skit is for use especially in America. It is designed for a children's missions presentation to be followed by a song such as *This Little Light of Mine* from Psalty's *Heart to Change the World* tape.)

Puppets needed: two puppets (I call them Ralph and Bernie). Ralph has a small flashlight.

RALPH: (Enters with the flashlight singing *This Little Light of Mine*. At the verse "Hide it under a bushel— No," he is singing very loudly as he waves the flashlight around.)

BERNIE: Excuuuuse me..Uh....Yoo-Hoo! What do you think you're doing?

RALPH: Who, me?

BERNIE: Yes YOU, Ralph. What are you doing?

RALPH: Can't you see, Bernie? I'm letting my little light shine! I learned this neat song at church, and now I'm shining my light all over. See my cool flashlight? It really works good.

BERNIE: Ralph, that's not what the song is talking about.

RALPH: What are you saying? It's not?

BERNIE: Of course not! "Letting your light shine" means that we tell others about Jesus and not be afraid.

RALPH: Are you serious?

BERNIE: Yes, I'm serious. The Bible says that Jesus is the light of the world, but He also told us to be "lights" for Him by telling others about His love.

RALPH: WOW! You mean I don't even need this flashlight?

BERNIE: No, silly. You just need boldness to share Jesus. You could use your Bible or a story, but the important thing is that you do what God says and be a witness for Him.

RALPH: That sounds easy enough!

BERNIE: With Jesus, it is easy. And one more thing Ralph...

RALPH: Yeah?

BERNIE: Do you see how bright it is up here? You hardly need a flashlight here because there is already so much light. But...if you look down there...(have both puppets look down behind the puppet stage)...it's dark.

RALPH: (Shining his light down below the puppet stage) WOW! Look how good this flashlight shows up down there!

BERNIE: You see Ralph, here in America, we need to spread the Gospel of Jesus. But did you know that there are many places where people have NEVER heard about Jesus. There are millions and millions and millions of unreached people around the world. And they REALLY need the light of the Gospel.

RALPH: Isn't that called being a missionary?

BERNIE: That's right, and when we help fulfill the mission of Jesus, we are really letting our light shine!

RALPH: That sounds exciting, Bernie!

BERNIE: It really is, and every one of us needs to find

God's purpose and plan for our part in sharing His light around the world. Do you get it?

RALPH: You bet! I'm going to let my light shine for Jesus—especially to those who don't know and who haven't heard about Him.

BERNIE: Good job, Ralph!

RALPH: (Singing as he begins to walk "down-stairs" behind the puppet stage. Ohhh, this little light of mine, I'm a'gonna let it shine...Ohhhh NOOOOOOO! (Make sound effects of Ralph falling down the stairs.)

BERNIE: Ralph! Ralph! Are you all right?

RALPH: (responding weakly) Yeah, but I really should have used the flashlight.

### CHILDREN'S CONTESTS

Contests are another fun tool to use in a children's crusade. Especially in crowded inner cities, children will usually respond with great enthusiasm when given an opportunity to compete. Realize, however, that the behavior and response of children will vary depending on their customs and traditions. We have found that in small, isolated villages, the people are not accustomed to competition, and will be especially shy around foreigners. If this is so, it would be best to avoid contests in your crusades. It is usually best to pick one girl and one boy, and have prizes for everyone involved. To help make the contest exciting, bring a loud whistle and have fun children's music playing while the contest is going on.

*Following are several examples for children's contests:*

1. Follow the Leader: Have the children follow your motions (such as lifting their hands, jumping, turning around, or clapping). Try to "trick" them into clapping while you stop in mid-motion.
2. Balloon Blow and Pop: Have a boy and a girl each blow up a balloon and then pop it by sitting on it. First to pop their balloon is the winner.
3. Cracker Eat and Whistle: Give a boy and a girl each a cracker. The first to eat the cracker and whistle is the winner.
4. Pop Drinking Contest: Give two children each a bottle of pop. At the sound of the whistle, both try to drink

the pop as quickly as possible. The first to finish is the winner.

### EASY OBJECT LESSONS

1. **Five Color Book:** Using the colors gold, black, red, white, and green, explain the gospel message.

2. **Dirty and Clean Hands:** Wet your hands and place them on the dirt. Show the children your hands and talk about the dirt representing sin. Try to wipe your hands on your clothes (showing that when we try to get rid of our sin by ourselves we just make it worse.) Lastly, use water (or white shaving cream) and a red washcloth to clean your hands. Teach that it is only through the blood of Jesus and his forgiveness that our lives can be made clean.

3. **Posterboard Pictures:** Have the children draw the salvation story on posterboard. You may want to make transparencies from a Bible coloring book, and with an overhead projector trace these pictures onto a posterboard and color.

4. **Bible Cover Filled with Garbage:** On the outside, the Bible cover looks very good. Open the cover to reveal all kinds of garbage, explaining that this garbage represents sin. With a red washcloth, clean out the Bible case and replace with a Bible. Teach that God does not look on our outward appearance but on our heart and tell how to receive Jesus into your heart and life.

5. **Soap and Wash Bucket:** Show a dirty cloth representing sin. The soap and wash bucket represent salvation through Jesus Christ. Jesus can take our sinful lives and wash them to make them clean and pure.

6. **Black Balloon:** As you blow up the balloon, talk about how sin usually starts off very small, and then grows. Explain that Jesus can destroy the power of sin in our lives. (Use a needle and pop the balloon.)

7. **Super-large Green Balloon:** Point to nearby trees and green plants and talk about how the color green reminds you of things that grow. Blow up your green balloon as you teach on how to grow as a Christian. When it is huge, either let the balloon go or continue blowing until it pops. Teach about how we need to continue to grow until someday (although we do not know exactly when) our lives on earth will be over and we will go to heaven.

### SHARING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

No matter what age group you are preaching to, it is not difficult to present the Gospel message. Keep the message simple and straightforward.

1. God loves you! He created the heavens and the earth, and created mankind for fellowship with himself. It is God's desire for all to be saved and to live forever with Him in heaven (Genesis 1:1, 1 John 5:19 and 2 Peter 3:9).

2. Ever since Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden, all men and women have been born in sin and have sinned against God. This sin is like a great barrier between God and Man (Romans 6:23).

3. No matter how hard people try to "get to God" by themselves, they fall short of God's glory. The penalty of sin is death. (Romans 3:23)

4. God loved us so much, that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, down to this earth. Jesus was born of a virgin (without a sin nature) and lived a perfect, sinless life. He chose to die on the cross, taking the death penalty for our sins upon Himself. Jesus died on the cross for your sins (John 3:16, Romans 5:8).

5. Now we can come to God through Jesus Christ and His forgiveness. You can be saved when you make Jesus your Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10).

### WORKING WITH AN INTERPRETER

In order to communicate in a community with a different language, it is important to have a good interpreter. You need to find an individual who will work with you, and not against you, and will translate accurately. It is a tremendous benefit to have an interpreter who is saved and has had experience in interpreting Gospel preaching. Often simple Christian words (such as sin, heaven, saved, forgiveness) are not familiar to an unbeliever, and will confuse him or her as they try to understand what you say.

### HELPFUL TIPS FOR PREACHING WITH AN INTERPRETER

1. Speak slowly, clearly and distinctly.

2. Say one complete phrase at a time. Half of a phrase, cannot always be translated. Verb conjugation in a foreign language is often different, and the interpreter will need a complete phrase or thought to interpret.

3. Use simple everyday words. Avoid technical or theological terms.

4. Avoid slang. It usually cannot be translated in a way that will make sense. (For example, do not say, "I'm so fired up about Jesus!" or, "It's so cool to be here.")

5. Avoid jokes with a play on words or words with double meanings. Most often it will not be funny when interpreted, and the people will just look at you with a strange expression.

6. If you will be preaching from the Bible using specific scripture verses, tell the interpreter these verses ahead of time so he or she can look them up and translate them correctly.

7. Pay attention to the audience to make sure they are understanding what you are saying. Keep an eye out for expressions of confusion or for responses that are not expected. (For example, if the entire crowd laughs at a time when you are trying to be serious, most likely the interpreter said something you did not mean to say.)

8. If you have to use an unbeliever to translate, substitute very simple words for theological expressions. (For example, you can substitute "the wrong things that we do" for the word "sin," or "God wants us to live forever with Him" for "eternal life.")

9. If doing children's ministry with an interpreter, make sure that your interpreter will be excited and enthusiastic with you.

### OTHER GOOD IDEAS FOR FAMILY MINISTRY OUTREACH

1. **BENEVOLENCE:** Pass on clothes, toys, gift boxes, soap, blankets, sheets, towels, or food.

2. **DISTRIBUTE GOSPEL TRACTS OR BIBLES**

3. **SHOW A GOSPEL FILM:** The *JESUS* Film by Campus Crusade for Christ is now available in over 300 languages. Many other Gospel films are available which are very effective when combined with a Gospel message and altar call.

4. **MEDICAL HELP:** As a family, you can assist at a health, dental, or midwifery clinic.

5. **PRAYER OUTREACH:** Go to another country to interceded in prayer for that area.

## PREPARING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

On most mission trips, you may have opportunities to share a personal testimony to encourage believers, or to share the Gospel. To help you organize your thoughts, please fill out the following chart.

What was your life like without Christ?

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When did you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

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How did you come to know the Lord?

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How has being a Christian changed your life?

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In what ways has the Lord been real and alive in your life?

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Has the Lord ever answered prayer, healed someone you know, provided for you in a special way, or given you peace or joy when it was not humanly possible?

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If you have the opportunity to share in a church, how can your testimony encourage believers? How can you relate your story to other Christians so that it applies directly to them?

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How does your testimony apply to those who have not yet received the Lord?

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What is the primary religion and belief of the people you will be ministering to?

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How can you relate your testimony to them?

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