

Is Your Puppet Ministry Successful?

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INTRODUCTION – Most churches have tried puppet ministries in the past. And some still use puppets with limited success. Churches that once had a puppet ministry eventually allowed it to fall by the way side because the listeners lost interest. Simply put, puppets are visuals. They can be a great visual if used properly because they are animated. So, why are most puppet ministries not very successful? Most puppet ministries are approached wrong. All of the emphasis is usually placed on the script for the puppet show. When this is done the puppet production is doomed to fail. Other ingredients are needed for a puppet production to be successful.

I. The _____ Person

A front person is the link between the puppet production and the audience. This person is usually the teacher or teacher's aide. He/she determines the format of what will take place during the production. Example: learning, fun time, etc. In other words this person points the listener in the direction the production will go. He/she sets the stage for what will happen. This individual can make or break the production. A puppet production is so much more successful when a front person is used.

II. _____ and _____ the Puppets

If the audience cannot hear and see the puppets the production will be pointless. Make sure the puppets are visible to every member of the audience. Also, be sure they are each easily heard and understood.



III. Creating & Knowing your _____

Most puppets that are utilized by a puppeteer are just that. They are just a puppet and have not been created into a character. A puppet will not be successful if it is not a real character. Learn how to create a character out of your puppet. And get to know that character as well as yourself.



IV. Pre-Planned _____

Never announce your puppet show. Make your puppets appear spontaneously throughout your program. This, of course, is pre-planned between the front person and puppeteers but looks spontaneous to the audience.

V. Ad-libbing your script

Most puppet productions make all of the weight rest on the script. This is a huge mistake. When a puppeteer has created the right character with his puppet and knows that character well it becomes a natural tendency to ad-lib. The right puppet production script will be properly typed but not strictly adhered to.

VI. Using _____ puppets

Quality does not mean expensive even though good quality puppets are expensive. Quality means well kept, clean, presentable puppets.

VII. Add _____ to your puppet production

Vary how often you use the individual characters and when you utilize them in the program. Sometimes skip a week and do not use the puppets. Limit the use of your puppet productions. You want quality not quantity.

CONCLUSION: Puppet shows are considered by the average children's worker to be fairly easy. When in fact, most workers never utilize them properly. If these ingredients are applied to a zealous worker it will produce a puppet program not soon forgotten. These ingredients will make your puppet production a success.

Answer Key: Front, Hearing, Seeing, Character, Spontaneity, quality, variety