

MYSTERY

IN YOUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”
(John 6:13)

The Spirit of God guides us into all truth. It is those absolutes of life that determine the guidelines of living for His glory and our usefulness for His divine purpose. As a teacher, it is our responsibility to inform, persuade, and guide people to this truth; but people have a tendency to try to ascertain things for themselves. When developing a lesson, you want to use mystery to spread your bread crumbs that they might become interested and then follow the clues to the truth you are revealing.



The word mystery means something which _____ or _____. It applies to what cannot be fully understood by reason or less strictly to whatever resists or defies explanation.

1. A mystery presents a _____ that applies to a _____ calling for a _____.
2. Applying mystery to your program _____ the listener to _____ to the truth being taught.
3. People, especially children, like the element of _____. The very best lessons and programs have mystery applied to produce surprise. It makes complete sense to use mystery to

reveal truth because we are born in sin and our reasoning ability is alien to the truths of God. Man cannot understand the things of God without the revelation of God's Word. So in the flesh, man is baffled to God's ways, but through the use of mystery, the teacher or preacher can succeed.

Mystery cannot be achieved without the following ingredients:

_____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

With these the instructor reveals the problem and solution to an audience and brings them to the point of decision.

_____ – Studying your lesson, choosing your visuals, practicing your object lessons and building your program is merely your starting point. One must then prepare and plan for mystery. Without it, there is less work but with it, goals are attained.



_____ – This is the element that draws the audience into the story or lesson. Begin the program with the element of surprise. Do not ever announce your intended visual. For instance if you were going to have a puppet presentation you would not announce, "We are now going to have a puppet show." This is a boring and a non-productive approach. You do not want the audience to see the puppeteers go behind the stage, and you most certainly do not want puppeteers sitting in the audience with a puppet. Secrecy draws the audience to a place of wonder, surprise, and lures them through the clues that you are presenting with your visuals.



_____ – Mystery is not effective if you do not use variety. There are many visuals that can be used. The same sequence and type of visuals should not be used every week. We often use what is easy



and what we are comfortable with. Pray about the truth you want to convey and when or where visuals could help reveal that truth.

_____ - To maintain the mystery factor and guarantee the attention of the audience, timing is crucial. Are you going to use the visuals to introduce the lesson for the day? Will they be interjected into the lesson? Perhaps, they will be used to present the truth through telling a Bible story or applying the truth in the story. A spotlight on the lesson can be used to set the stage for the lesson or message. Timing is knowing when to give the clue regarding mystery. Correct timing is essential to maintain mystery.



_____ - As you disclose the clues throughout the lesson through the use of mystery and surprise, your goal is that the people will understand, desire, and embrace the truth revealed. At the conclusion of your time, you want the Spirit of God to reveal the value of the truth and application made to their lives through illumination and conviction. This will result in life change, whether it is salvation, dedication, edification, or surrender.



CONCLUSION:

Mystery in ministry does not hide the truth, it illuminates the truth. There are entertainers who use assorted visuals and mystery to create laughter, awareness and even to educate. But we are not in the entertainment business. We are here to glorify God and to draw more men, women, boys and girls into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Hard work, dedication and practice produce the ability to use visuals. The acquired skill of using mystery will greatly improve this ability to reach your spiritual goals.

Answer Key: The word mystery means something which baffles or perplexes.

1. A mystery presents a problem that applies to a question or difficulty calling for a solution.
2. Applying mystery to your program positions the listener to hear and react to the truth being taught.
3. People, especially children, like the element of surprise.

Mystery cannot be achieved without the following ingredients: preparation, secrecy, variety, timing and revelation.

PREPARATION

SECRECY

VARIETY

TIMING

REVELATION