

# **Puppet Ministry of One**

Puppets are an amazing tool God can use for sharing the Gospel. It's great when you have a committed team of puppeteers. Unfortunately college, other interests, or people moving drastically reduces the team to one. You still feel called to work with puppets but you only have two arms. Puppet ministry of one makes it less complicated, less expensive, and more dependent upon God instead of people.

## **1. PRAYER**

Prayer is the most essential and vital foundation for any ministry. Any ministry that is not bathed in prayer will not last. If we spend more time preparing materials and resources than in prayer the ministry will not be effective in reaching people with the Gospel. Ministry must be done God's way and not our way. I encourage you to get the book by K.P. Yohannan, "The LORD's Work Done the LORD's Way". Reading books on prayer are good but praying is much better. God answers prayer

## **2. Heart**

In addition to prayer it is important to have our hearts in tune with God. This sounds so basic but too often ministry is not done in the Spirit because of heart issues. If our hearts are right before the LORD, then the ministry will be right on target and accomplish what God has willed. We should be preparing our hearts and other preparations as if we were about to give a Bible study before a large audience. When the heart is right and prayer is a priority, there is nothing that we cannot do in Christ (Philippians 4:13)

## **3. Audience**

Know the audience to whom you will be ministering. Prayer is key in knowing your audience and how to effectively ministry to them. God will show you how to minister to your audience. If you are doing missions work in another country pray and research the culture of the people where you will be ministering. God will direct you on how to navigate through the difficulties and challenges of the country where you are serving. He will show you how to share the Gospel in closed nations. Focus upon the youngest member of your audience and all members of your audience will understand the Gospel message

## **4. Gospel**

Puppets are more than entertainment. They can be used to share the Gospel that an individual may not be allowed to share. Pray and God will provide the script that is on target that clearly presents the Gospel. It is God's desire that everyone hears the Gospel and respond to the invitation of salvation (Acknowledge we are sinners, Believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead and paid the price for my sins, Confess my sins and ask to become a member of God's family). We are all missionaries and not entertainers. God has commissioned us to take the Good News of the Gospel to our neighborhood, city, state, nation, and the world.

## **5. Puppets**

Puppets can be purchased or handmade. Balloons, socks, plants, and other objects can be used as a puppet. Snap Dragon flowers were one of our granddaughters' favorite when they were little. They don't have to be expensive and often the simple ones are most effective.

## **6. Puppet Etiquette**

Puppets should not be treated as toys. When children think the puppet is a toy they are prone to punch and pull at the puppet. Puppets should be treated the way you would like the children to interact with them. If you treat the puppet carefully, with respect, and as special, the children will treat the puppet in a respectful and caring manner. It is amazing how many times the children actually believe the puppet is alive. Treating your puppet carefully will prolong the puppets life. The way we talk to the children and treat the puppet will determine how much the children will be receptive to your ministry.

## **7. Introduction and Exit**

The introduction and the exit of your puppet are very important in your presentation. Since we don't have a stage or back drop it is important to paint a picture in the minds of the children in preparation of the puppet's arrival. Setting the stage in the minds of your audience will make your ministry more effective. Pray and think of an orderly way for your puppet to make an entrance so as not to cause your audience to get out of control. It's easy to get laughs and craziness but it is much harder to get them to settle down and listen to the important message.

The exiting of your puppet should be carefully thought out. You are ministering until the puppet exits and you walk off the stage. If you are giving an invitation for people to accept Christ it would be best not to have the puppet visible. The good byes can take place before the invitation. Pray and see how the LORD would have you conclude the service/meeting.

## **8. Conclusion**

As believers we know according to Scripture we are never alone (Hebrews 13:5). When we minister the LORD will guide us and touch the hearts of everyone including us. A puppet ministry of one can bless you beyond measure as you see God working through you and your puppet. Pray and see how the LORD will direct you in this exciting ministry.