

Build the wall

Children and Mission workshop & drama by David Pollendine

A Partnership between



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Mid-Africa Ministry is part of CMS.

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1. Introduction to using the resource

The aim

This resource is geared to engage children and young people in the theme of Children and Mission, especially encouraging young people to use their gifts in building God's kingdom. The performance is put together through improvisational workshops, where all the ideas are created and performed by the cast.

The role of the Teacher/Leader

Is that of facilitator, but some directional skills are needed and a knowledge of good stage- craft practice.)

The medium

Mime and physical theatre techniques are the focus and can be juggled around. Techniques such as group freeze frames, individual Mime, and physical story telling are all used. In addition song can be done live if there are talented singers or any appropriate track can be used. Big Intent has written a track specifically for this show and it can be ordered by email at bigintent1@aol.com

Create the Performance in two easy steps.

1. Start by referring to the, "**Outline for workshops**" to take the group through the creational process of creating the mime and movement.
2. Then referring to the "**performance script**" add the scripts to the performance with a run through rehearsal

The performance can take anything from between 15 to 30 minutes

Outline for workshops

1. The Jerusalem activity workshop

Warm up with everybody (15 mins to teach first scene)
Walking around the room shout out the following commands. These images will be physicalised by the group or individuals in the performance and will be set as you run through the script. In this workshop you can start to identify suitable candidates.

1. Mark out area, which represents Jerusalem.
Children walk around the space and get to know it.

2. Introduce them to their new environment and teach them cues.
(Teach them the Geography first, and then introduce the characters, then the events to give them a real simulated experience.)
 1. The walls N E S W
 2. The king of Persia - Trumpet call
 3. Post letters – Envelope mime
 4. Tease, laugh scorn – Mime
 5. Jerusalem – Hooray and build freeze
 6. Collapse – fall to ground
 7. Unrest in the camp – fight, steal, tease
 8. Freeze

Play the Jerusalem game, where by the last person to obey the command sits out (This is a fun way to drill the vocabulary for the mime), then read out the script and get group to react to the cues within the text.

2. Rebuild the wall workshop

a. Introduce activity. A local from Jerusalem – Nashat, (You can dress someone in traditional middle eastern clothing) tells the Nehemiah story (so far) to the group and asks them for help in re building the wall. (10 mins)

b. Teach mime techniques (as a group experiment in finding the best way to show these images perhaps by just shouting out the words and reacting immediately to them.)

Wheelbarrow: Lifting, pushing, lowering and emptying

Mixing cement.

Bricklaying.

Foreman/surveyor

Plumber

Group task

In groups of 4 each person takes the role of one of the above four areas and works out a mime building a section of the wall. Show them to each other.

Performance

Using Build the wall theme music or a drum or percussion like instrument, each group enters the stage in sequence and performs their mime to build up a scene of a busy building site. Once everyone is on stage they hold a freeze to indicate the end of the piece.

Using the script below run through the whole piece including the re building performance as well.

Script for Nehemiah

Narrator: Nehemiah was a very happy and loyal servant; He was cupbearer to the *King of Persia*. (*Trumpets sound*), Yet often his thoughts would go back to the memory of his family home, *JERUSALEM* (*Group shout Hooray and make Jerusalem still freeze frame*)

It was then, as you can imagine, a very black day when Nehemiah heard of the destruction and ruin *Jerusalem* (hooray) was in. (*Jerusalem collapses*)

Nehemiah couldn't just sit around and do nothing about it (*Hands on hips*). After praying to God and asking the Kings permission (*bow to throne*) He set off to enlist every man, women and child, rich and poor, priestly and peasant (*Every one stand, face audience and exit the stage*) to help in the grand rebuilding of *Jerusalem* (hooray).

BUT

It wasn't all plain sailing! There were those who would *tease, laugh and scorn* (*everyone does their action*) Letters were *posted* to frighten Nehemiah (post letter action) and there was even *unrest in the camp* (*unrest action*)

Yet on the 52nd day *Jerusalem* was complete (*Hooray*) but not without a lot of hard work

Build the wall mime performance

God had honoured one man's trust and the willingness of men, women and children to be available and play their part. The structure of *Jerusalem* (*everyone hooray*) was now complete, but the real work had just begun, the restructuring of every persons heart

"Build the world" song Finale