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Introduction

Every year your church puts on a drama by the children, and everyone loves watching the kids perform. It's the highlight of the year, and such an exciting time, too, as we Christians celebrate the birth of Christ. Well, it ought to be. But not everyone looks at the Christmas play with such enthusiasm. For the Sunday School teachers this means despair in October as they search for a suitable script to no avail. It means alarm for parents in November as they are asked to produce a costume, and they have no idea what is expected. It means tears for the children in December when Mum or Dad (or the teacher) are disappointed that they don't know their lines. When doing any drama with kids, remember this:

- a) Keep it short
- b) Keep it on their level
- c) Minimise or eliminate all line-learning
- d) Make it entertaining to the adults, because kids love to hear Mum and Dad enjoy their performance!

Sounds like a tall order, but really it's not. With all this in mind, I have put together this small collection of dramas for Christmas and Easter. They are all short, they are easy to orchestrate with a number of children, and they are flexible in terms of gender and number of kids.

If you really want to make the dramas easy for young kids to perform, yet professional for the audience, then try this: record a 'sound track' with adult voices prior to the performance, and have the children just act it out. This is particularly good for an outdoor performance (eg Carols by Candlelight), a performance in a large hall, or where microphones are limited. It also eliminates the problem of children not daring to speak up on the day of the performance.

The Bible verse with each drama may be read out some time before the drama starts (perhaps with choruses sung in between), or it may be read out just as the performance begins. Or it may be left out altogether.

With each drama I have given some extra suggestions on how it could be staged, including ideas for costumes and stage props. Remember to give parents some suggestions for costumes, and also plenty of time to source the clothes. Above all, have fun with the kids and remember that it is all done in aid of learning, not with the aim of a perfect performance for Broadway. Yes, we'd like it to be good if it's for an outreach event, but it is up to you to use ways of making it professional with what you've got: a bunch of kids!