



# THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers—Dedicated to those who bring the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

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## INVOLVEMENT: FOR LEARNING THAT LASTS

For one week in June, twelve teens came to Postville, Iowa, for a week to participate in Bible studies, visiting homes and teaching Bible classes to children. For the Bible classes the teens studied five Bible stories and using objects found around the house, created a dramatization of the story for 60

Sunday school students each day. The results were fantastic:

### Learning that lasts—

Every Sunday school has at least one student like Kevin. He usually sits near an adults during class to control his behavior. This weekend he had a black eye from a recent fight. Kevin also was able to repeat to me every vivid detail of the story of Adam and Eve. He really learned the story!

**Sad Farewells**—A comment from another student “Why did all those people have to leave?” That was the feeling of all of us at the end of the week. We had such a great time teaching students, visiting their families and studying the scriptures that we have decided to meet again for an encore the last week-end of summer vacation.

**The Teacher is the Student**—It has been said that the best way to learn a subject is to teach it to others. To properly convey a story to children, the teens who taught the lessons had to read the story, study the characters, memorize certain phrases and apply the story to a spiritual lesson. If the children in the classes remembered the story, imagine how well the story was implanted on the minds of those who participated.

**Involvement**—Why not involve your class in re-creating a Bible story? Young kids love to act, love to help and love to move. You don’t need professional props or scripts. First briefly tell the story to your class perhaps with a few pictures. Next assign a few key lines to say. Choose some objects in your house to make the story come to life. If the story is short, re-assign the roles to other students to give others a chance to participate.

**Simple props**—Use objects that are easy to prepare and easy to use multiple times. Bed sheets quickly become tents with the help of two sets of hands. A large cardboard box serves as Noah’s ark or Jericho’s wall. Chairs work for bushes, sheep, camels or whatever object your story needs. Tape and cardboard make up the rest of the props. The pictures that follow are from the way we interpreted the stories. You can see videos of the stories at

<http://www.gospelhall.org/teaching--preaching/learning-styles/sunday-school-skits.html>

Shad David Sluiter, Postville, Iowa



Adam (Cameron) and Eve (Annette) debating the merits of the forbidden fruit (Jeremy)



Building Noah's Ark (Cameron, Annette, Alison and Alison)



Welcome home party for Prodigal Son.

## TEENS WEEK IN POSTVILLE (CONTINUED)



Bus trip during Teen Week in Postville. Kevin and Pricilla Buck came from Cleveland to help.



The Prodigal Son (Stephen) feeding the pigs (Pedro and Rene)



Adam and Eve (Cameron and Annette) have some explaining to do to God (Stephen)



Butler (Jeremy) is planning a welcome home party for the Lost Son with Father (Anthony) and his wife (Annette)



Group photo at Pike's Peak State Park.



Noah and his wife introduce their ark-building family (Anthony, Annette, Alison, Nathan, Christy, Jeremy, Cameron and Alison)

## TEENS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)



Farmer (Nathan) and Farmer's Wife (Alison) debate the merits of hiring migrant worker help for the farm during a famine.



Noah and his wife introduce their ark-building family (Anthony, Annette, Alison, Nathan, Christy, Jeremy, Cameron and Alison)



Farmer (Nathan) hires the Prodigal Son (Stephen) to work on his farm.



Pricilla Buck with students.



Group photos from the Teen Week at Postville.