Theater Workshop

Choose any or all of the following activities, depending on time. All materials are located in the classroom.

**Materials needed:** white gloves, white face paint, makeup sponges, pictures of mimes, mirror, character cards (printed and cut out), copies of facial expressions for each group, face wipes

Activity #1: (for all ages): Mime Time

Instructions:

1. As kids enter, have them take a seat on the floor facing you.

2. Say, **Today we are going to learn about miming. Does anyone know what it means to mime?** Has anyone ever seen a mime? Mimes tell a story through their bodies without using words. They paint their faces white and wear white gloves so the audience can see their movements. Mimes make BIG hand movements and facial expressions to tell the story without words. Their hands and faces are white to emphasize the motions they make.

All of the following information will be taught in chapel but can be repeated in workshops:

**Topic:** Healing the Paralytic (Through the Roof!)

**Goals:**
- Locate the story of Jesus healing the paralytic in the Bible.
- Locate Capernaum on a map
- Be able to picture the house in the story (ancient middle east architecture)
- Be able to tell the story in their own words
- Describe what it means to be paralyzed
- Identify how God helps and cares for our needs- where in our lives do we need healing and what might that healing look like?
- Articulate ways that God might use you to meet another’s need

**Main Idea:** Jesus taught lessons in parables. In this parable, Jesus compares the relationship between God and humanity to the relationship between a son who made a mistake and a forgiving father. Since God is loving and forgiving, we should be loving and forgiving too!

**Bible Story:** Luke 5:17-26 or Mark 2:1-12

**Memory Verse:** “When Jesus saw the faith of the friends, he said to the paralyzed man, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.'"
There are no spoken words in mime. Show pictures of mimes. Talk about what emotions/actions they might be portraying.

3. Pass out white gloves to everyone and have them put them on. Say, Let’s practice some hand motions together. Remember- BIG hand motions!
   a. How would your hands say “bye-bye!”?
   b. How would your hands say “no, no!”?
   c. How would your hands say “Stop!”?

4. As kids are practicing, go around the room with the white face paint and sponge. Apply a SMALL amount on anyone who wants it. ASK PERMISSION BEFORE APPLYING FACE PAINT. Kids do NOT have to wear the face paint!

5. Pass around the mirror for kids to look at themselves.

6. When all face paint is applied, regather the group. Say, A white face will make any expression look exaggerated. Let’s practice showing emotions on your faces. Pass around mirror as desired.
   a. How would your face looking if you wanted to show the word “WOW!”?
   b. How would your face looking if you wanted to show the word “OUCH!”?
   c. How would your face looking if you wanted to show the word “YAY!”?

7. Divide kids into a few different groups. Give each group 1 or more character cards. Each group will be in charge of coming up with pantomime hand gestures and facial expressions for each of the characters. Make sure all six characters have been handed out. It’s okay if some groups have more than one. Also pass out facial expression sheets to give kids some ideas.


9. Go around to each group to assist them as necessary. When each group has created a pantomime, collect the character cards and bring everyone together to share. Have each group come forward to perform their different mimes (NO WORDS!). Clap after each group.

10. Next, try to tell the whole Bible story with all the characters together! Pick a person from each group to be each character. Say, Let’s tell a silent “Four Friends” story!
11. After the performance, pass out wet wipes to clean faces. Collect white gloves.

**Closing: (for all ages)**

1. Have children stand in a circle and link elbows. Say, "**Look around this circle. Each of us is a unique masterpiece created by God. Together we are God’s people. When we share our time, talents, and the things we have, God can do great things through us to help others. Like the four friends, let’s not allow anything to keep us and our friends away from Jesus!**"

2. Invite children to pray with you:
   "Dear God, Let us always be; People in community; Serving others, serving you; Showing love in all we do; Break the walls that might divide us; Help us see you here beside us. Amen."
Facial Expressions 1

- Satisfaction
- Amusement
- Joy
- Laughter
- Sternness

- Dejection
- Melancholy
- Sadness
- Grief
- Indignation

- Concern
- Anxiety
- Fear
- Terror
- Anger

- Devastation
- Spooked
- Faint Hope
- Amazement
- Disappointment
- Rage

Inspired by Tom Brancroft & Scott McCloud
Facial Expressions 2

MAD  SURPRISED  HAPPY  SAD  CONFUSED  INTENSE

DUMB-FOUNDED  DETERMINED  ESTATIC  HOPEFUL  VENGEFUL  COCKY

"I'M INNOCENT!"  "WHAT? REALLY?!"  "DON'T F**K WITH ME!!"  CAGED ANIMAL  CRUELTY  BETRAYAL

"WHAT THE--?!"  HORROR  "EWW!"  PAIN EMPATHY  "YOU ATE IT??"  DESPERATION

PRESENTED BY DARKSEEPDEDS 2013
Healing the Paralytic
Character cards

PARALYZED MAN

FRIEND #1

FRIEND #2

FRIEND #3

FRIEND #4

JESUS