

Helpful Hints on Using Monologues

Be creative: Allow God to show you through your imagination possibilities for staging the monologues.

- Costumes and props can be as simple or as elaborate as you choose. If you have access to full costumes from the era and feel they will enhance the sharing of the monologue, then use them. However, if you do not have access to such costumes, something as simple as a piece of cloth used for a head covering would supply the viewers with a sense of who the woman is. Allow the words to be the primary focus. A simple reading of the monologue can help the listener's see the scene in their mind's eye and understand these women in ways they never have before.
- Focus more on voice inflection, reading "with feeling," and paying close attention to punctuation for clues from the writer into the emotions being conveyed. Practice reading the monologues aloud several times.

General Suggestions for the Study Leader

Preparation:

- Be aware that God has called you as study leader for such a time as this. Find a quiet place to pray, asking God to guide you and to use you to accomplish God's purpose in this time and place.
- Read the suggested Scripture and monologue, trying to put yourself in the place of the woman, so that God can speak through her to you.
- Picture the women in your group. As you read the discussion suggestions, consider how the suggestions relate to these women. The discussion suggestions are offered as a possible guide, not a rigid set of instructions. Would adapting some of the questions and activities, or substituting others, make the study more helpful for your group? You may not need or have time to use all the questions. Pray for each woman in your group and for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in your life and in the life of each woman who will be present.
- Arrange chairs in the room where you will meet so women can see the woman who presents the monologue and each other. Check that the temperature and lighting in the room contribute to the learning environment.

Leading the study:

- Use an opening prayer or thought to help the group prepare for the monologue.
- After the monologue, pause before beginning the discussion to give women time to reflect on what they have heard and felt.
- If your group is large, you may suggest that women discuss some of their responses with partners or in smaller groups of 6-8 persons. Then each group could share a response.
- Model respect for each woman and her response.
- Give everyone who wishes an opportunity to respond.
- If one person tends to dominate the discussion, you can involve others with questions such as "How do you respond to what _____ said?" or "What ideas do others have about that?"
- Be aware that some women may choose not to speak. Help these women feel comfortable silently considering their responses.
- Do not be afraid of silence. Give plenty of time for responses and for questions women may raise related to the monologue and discussion.
- If the discussion seems to get off track, gently guide the group back with one of the suggested questions.
- Be available following the study if anyone has further questions or wishes to tell you privately about her response.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry
2005-2006 Bible Studies

For Such A Time As This: Reaching Out to Serve!

Join with your sisters across the country in showing the love of Christ to the world as we focus together on the theme for the upcoming year. ***“For Such A Time As This: Reaching Out to Serve!”*** Women, individually and in groups, will find countless ways to reach out to others with the love of Jesus Christ. You will continue some of the ministries that are meaningful, and no doubt, some will begin new ministries this year. We rejoice with you in the possibilities!

Here you will find rich resources to encourage and sustain you in your work. We are excited about this year's Bible Study. Each study begins with a monologue from a different woman in the Bible. Thanks to ***Tiffany Hall McClung*** for sharing her talent with us as a writer. Tiffany graduated from the University of Memphis with a degree in Theatre. She attended Memphis Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in 2000 by Nashville Presbytery. She is married to the Reverend Andy McClung, who is pastor of First CP Church in Savannah, Tennessee. Tiffany and Andy are the proud parents of Ian, and will soon be welcoming another little one into their home! ***Beth Cole*** enhances Tiffany's monologues with activities and discussion questions for groups to use. Beth has made it possible for women to go even deeper into God's Word and their own spiritual reflection. Beth graduated from Union University in Jackson, TN with majors in Religion and English. She went on to graduate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville with a Master of Theology degree. She is married to the Reverend Dwayne Cole, who pastors the First CP Church in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. They are the parents of two adult children and especially the proud grandparents of Cole, who lives in Denver, Colorado.

Please feel free to use these resources to fit your interests and needs. Be sure to check out the Women's Ministry web site for more resources (<http://www.cumberland.org>, there you will find the link to Women's Ministry). This Bible Study, along with other resources specific to the yearly theme, is available through the Board of Missions for \$3.50. You can either call (901/276-9988) or use the Order Form at the end of the booklet.

You will also find at the end of the booklet, suggested calendar activities. This is provided for those groups who have found this resource helpful in the past. It is in no means, “written in stone.” Please feel free to adjust and modify your calendars to fit your group's unique needs.

Blessings as you hear once again, the stories of some amazing women of God and as you reach out to serve during such a time as this!

