

## Setting the Visual Scene

### Lessons from Cameroon

by Amelia Boomershine

One of the many blessings of the Cameroon mission trip was having the opportunity to get lots of teaching experience in a short period of time and to repeat the program. I was able to experiment with different approaches and learn what worked well. I grew in confidence and effectiveness as a workshop leader just by virtue of getting a lot of practice.

Children attended the Saturday Festival Gathering in Ndop. To my delight, team leader Juliana Rowe assigned them to my mission partner, Nancy Rice, and me for a storylearning workshop on Mark 1:16-20. After great fun going on a “Lion Hunt,” we launched into the call story. Learning continued with the foolproof storyboard exercise.



Then I used Godly Play figures for deeper learning and telling. The basket lid made a fine boat. The story materials helped the children enter the story world and get beyond rote recitation (which they do amazingly well). It was captivating to watch the young people think through the story, arrange the figures, and tell. Everyone paid close attention while they did so. Better yet, everyone wanted a turn!

I repeated the exercise in the afternoon topical workshop on Biblical Storytelling with Children where I taught the story of Jesus Blessing the Children. The adults were just as eager to tell with the figures as the children, who also attended that workshop.

I was so impressed with how well this method worked that I then used it in the adults-only workshops in Mutengene, not only for depicting the stories’ action, but also for identifying setting and characters. In the evaluations at the conclusion of the Mutengene Institute, one participant described this method as “setting the visual scene.” A number of people commented on how much the hands-on materials helped them visualize the story. It clearly also helped beginners feel comfortable telling the story to a group for the first time.

For more on the use of hands-on materials in learning and telling stories [click here...](#)

To purchase figures for scripture stories, visit [Worship Woodworks](#). I recommend this company for fine workmanship, reasonable cost, and excellent customer service. I use them weekly in Children’s Worship in conjunction with Godly Play scripts as well as “pure” biblical storytelling. I now also use them as a basic activity in biblical storytelling workshops for any age.