

Costumed Bible People



A fun way to tell or review a Bible story is to dress up as characters from the story. The teacher can dress up as a character and tell the story, or the children can dress up and role-play.

It is amazing how wearing a simple costume encourages both children and adults to lose their shyness and attempt to “get into character.”

Costumes used in productions and plays can be complex and expensive. The costumes described below are very simple and made for free from fabric scraps, old linens and curtains. They are not meant to accurately depict clothing from Biblical times. They are meant to enhance the teaching session and to be used in a fairly spontaneous way for any Bible story.

MATERIALS FOR A BASIC COSTUME:



TUNIC

- Tunic: A large rectangular piece of fabric with a hole cut in the middle as an opening for the head to slip through. The length of the fabric will determine the final length of the tunic. For example, the same piece of fabric would be a long tunic on a child but a shorter one on an adult.
- Belt: A cord, rope or thin strip of fabric that is at least long enough to wrap around the waist and tie in a loose knot.

HEAD COVERING

- Covering: A pillowcase or fabric of a similar size to a pillowcase. If you want a longer head covering, then use a larger piece of fabric.
- Headband: A cord, rope or thin strip of fabric that is at least long enough to wrap around the head and tie in a loose knot.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEARING THE BASIC COSTUME:

1. Slip your head through the hole to place the tunic over the body.



2. Tie the belt around the waist and tie in a bow or loose knot.



3. Place the pillowcase or fabric over the head and then tie the headband over it.





ADDITIONS TO THE BASIC COSTUMES:

- If desired, any number of additional items can be added to the basic costume idea. Garage sales, second-hand shops or clearance sales are great sources for items to add to a costume collection.
- The examples below (as well as the one of the king and queen at the top of the page) show how the basic tunic idea has been enhanced by adding a few props. The tunics in the examples were cut from old curtains, so they were long enough even for adults.





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