

D/G CIRCUS SPECTACULAR: A DESIGN

SESSION 2: "FOOLS FOR CHRIST" (*all about clowns*)

BIBLICAL BASIS: 1 Corinthians 4:10 – "We are fools for Christ's sake...."

Romans 12:15 – "...rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

Galatians 6:2 – "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ."

PROJECT: becoming clowns to perform church benediction skit.

(additional resources include materials based on Floyd Shaffer's "If I Were A Clown," Augsburg Publishing, 1984; and other unidentified resources available; resources from Rollo; skit developed by Pr. Beutler)

AVAILABLE TIME: @33 minutes.

POINT OF LESSON: We are "fools for Christ" with a purpose.

1. Calliope plays 1 verse of:
2. At @9:20am, ringmaster blows whistle, children dismissed to the circus tent.
3. Ringmaster welcomes children to "the center ring."
4. 3-ring action including:

Ring 1

D/G VIDEO PLAYING:
"Boy Lost," @15min.

Center Ring

TALK ABOUT CIRCUS CLOWNS
INCLUDING:

- do you like clowns? why? why not?
- what do clowns do?
- why do clowns do what they do?
- et al

SHOW THEM ROLLO'S PICTURE,
HIS COSTUME,
HIS GREETINGS

TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE GOING
TO BE DOING: designing own clown face,
...using "grease paint"
...practice a short routine to
be done as benediction in
church today.

SHOW KIDS "GREASE PAINT,"
...HOW TO USE IT BY STARTING
OWN "FACE"

Ring 2

KIDS BEGIN TO DO SAME WITH HELP.

WHILE DOING "FACE," SHARE THE FOLLOWING:

- the Bible says we were created from mud, clay: clods (cf Genesis 2:7);
- that we are called to be God's partners in his creation (remember last month's story)
- the word "clown" comes to us from the word "clod," (a lump of earth) and refers to a "fool," as understood today,
- the apostle Paul calls us, as Christians:
 - ... "fools for Christ's sake,"
 - ... weeping, rejoicing, bearing one another's burdens,
- clowns are not performers but enablers,
 - ... fill in when something goes wrong,
 - ... give audience permission to relax, enjoy,
 - ... make people smile when its hard to smile,
 - ... carries others tears and hurts.
 - ... non-conformists,
 - ... servants,
 - ... agents of hope,
 - ... vulnerable lovers,
 - ... symbols of joy,
 - ... the glue that holds a circus (ie life) together,
 - ... human beings (from which we get the word "humor") we were created to be.

PRACTICE BENEDICTION SKIT

CLOSE WITH: "THE CLOWN'S PRAYER"

RETURN TO CHURCH FOR COMMUNION
IN CLOWN MAKEUP

FOLLOWING BENEDICTION DO:
"The Love Wave"

CLOWN SKIT: "The Love Wave"

PROPS: Love Balloons

1. ring-master blows whistle, clowns come up to pastor, interrupt, give hug
2. give hugs to each other, shake hands on a job well done.
3. find balloons hidden during service under pulpit, behind altar, etc. ... begin batting "LOVE" balloons around to each other...stop...look at congregation.
4. pastor gets idea (holds light bulb over his head)

5. group huddles to discuss an idea...breaks with a "high-five"
6. start batting LOVE balloon again, but this time into congregation for each member of congregation to share
...their LOVE,
...and God's...with each other
(introduce more balloons into congregation so church is filled with LOVE balloons)
7. clowns leave...congregation does too...continuing to share in God's world, God's love.