

Tricky Messages for Kids

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for resources related to this break-out, including a free .pdf book of the routines taught.

Rules For Using Tricks and Illusions to Teach and Minister to Children:

- 1. Pray Ahead of Time** — Pray that God would bring people into your class/service that need to experience your illustrated message of God's love.
- 2. Know What You're Going To Say** — The message you are sharing is more important than the trick you present. Always practice what you are going to say as you demonstrate the trick. The trick should only enhance the message that's already on your heart.
- 3. Have The Trick Ready** — Don't waste any time gathering items to make the trick happen during the class/service. This will make you look unprepared and you will lose the interest of the children.
- 4. Never Tell Anyone the Secret** — Most children will ask how you do a trick if you did it well. Just say "I never tell my secrets, sorry." Resist the urge to give in. The fun in using tricks and illusions is in the secret. If you tell them the secret — the mystery and fun is lost.
- 5. Do the Trick Only Once** — The first time you show an audience a trick they will be surprised at what happens. If you show it a second time they will know what to expect and be more likely to figure out how you did the trick.
- 6. Perfecting One Trick is Better than Learning 100 tricks Partially Well** — The memory of one well performed trick will stick in the memories much better than lots of poorly presented tricks. Expand your knowledge by learning many tricks, but focus on only a handful to really perfect... that's why we will only learn few tricks in this class.

7. **Practice to absolute perfection. Then, practice some more** — Don't ever present a trick in front of your class/service that you don't know perfectly. This might take hours, sometimes days to get a trick working perfectly. I think it's good to practice the trick or illusion at least 10 times in front of a mirror before you show a class/service.
8. **Practice on Someone Else** — Show your presentation to someone you trust, first - like a spouse or maybe another KidMin Leader at your church. Ask them what they think: Were they fooled by the trick? Did they understand your message? Was there anything they think you should do to make it better? After you've gotten your answers - go practice it 10 times in front of a mirror AGAIN.
9. **Be On The Lookout!** — Look for both, "Gospel Specific" Tricks and Tricks that you can customize/adapt.
10. **Keep it a Surprise** — Have a place it comes from and a place it goes away — keeps the mystery & keeps other's hands off of your prepared props.
11. **Don't Get Frustrated** — There are days when a trick doesn't work for me too - and I've been doing them for over 30 years! If you mess-up a trick, just smile at your audience and say, "Oh well - I'll keep practicing and someday I'll do it perfectly." Sometimes, if I have another trick with me I will also say, "Can I show you a different trick?" Most of the time people say yes, because they really do want to see something surprising.

Additional Resources

Laflin Magic - www.laflinmagicstore.com **Vendor here at the conference.** They carry various props and resources that will help enhance your ministry.

Dock Haley Gospel Magic - gospelmagic.com - they supply many *ready-to-perform* routines and supplies, specific for presenting gospel magic.

Creative Art Store - creativeartstore.com - they create some unique gospel magic and illusion supplies.

Mission Magic - www.missionmagic.co.uk - They produce some sharp resources and will ship worldwide.

The Fellowship of Christian Magicians - FCM.org - a fellowship of those who use Gospel magic and other related skills to present the gospel. Bi-monthly magazine full of useful ideas.