

# IGNITING PRAYER'S PASSION & POWER IN US

PROPPING UP THE PROCLAMATION



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- ❖ *“It was once the fashion in the Silesia and Bohemia of Eastern Europe to build pulpits in the shape of an upright whale. In order to take his place as a preacher, the pastor or priest had to enter the interior of the pulpit at the base, climb the ladder through the belly, and then come into the open mouth and deliver the sermon. [1]”*
- ❖ Consider the necessity of props in proclamation. Give your opinion.

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1 From Eugene H. Peterson's book: *“Under the Unpredictable Plant”* p.156



- ✦ Examine 1Corinthians 11: 23-26. How important is it that we handle the communion elements? Can our gratification in handling the elements promote the use of props in proclamation? Use your bible to find other instances where aids are used in proclamation.

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💡 Read Ezekiel 37:1ff: The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones. Consider how the use of props might enhance a discussion on this chapter.

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### **Exercise for Application: Ezekiel 37 – the Valley of the Dry Bones**

- ✦ Using this text, create and outline for presentation; come up with a title, and interject the use of props. Before getting stated, consider the following suggestions from Chapter Five:
- ✦ Props should not dominate the proclamation.
- ✦ The proclamation must not depend solely on props.
- ✦ Props must have relevance to the listening audience.
- ✦ Props must not offend the listening audience.
- ✦ Consider, in some case, direct audience participation in the use of props.



**Notes:**

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- ❖ Have you ever used props in proclamation? Why? Why Not?
- ❖ Would props assist young people in understanding the scriptures?
- ❖ How might the use of props get out of hand?
- ❖ Did Jesus and other New Testament proclaimers use props? Does their use give us license to use them?
- ❖ Are some traditions more amenable to their use? If so, which ones? Why?
- ❖ Is there a difference between props and illustrations?



- ❖ Reflect on how you present God's word publicly and privately. (2Timothy 4:2) (Acts 16:6ff)
- ❖ Consider ways to enhance its presentation. (Acts 6:1-4)
- ❖ Meditate on the un-churched and what some have called the X generation; think of ways in which the bible can become visually stirring. (1Timothy 4:1-5)
- ❖ Remember how a prop has inspired you. Describe this event? (Matthew 8:27)
- ❖ Consider the misuse of props and also their potential as a learning tool. (Exodus 4:2) (Exodus 7:11)



### Additional exercises for Chapter Five

- ✦ Consider how you might use props to enhance the presentation of these passages:  
  
Psalm 23: Our relationship with the Lord  
Isaiah 40:31: How to wait on God  
Luke 6:38: The blessings of giving
- ✦ For you who are involved in youth church, I have included additional passages, as well as some suggestions for props:
- ✦ 1Samuel 17: The story of David and Goliath. **Props:** a slingshot and 5 smooth stones; the clothes of a small child compared to the clothes of an adult. Draw a parallel to David being uncomfortable wearing the king's armour, rather than his own clothes.
- ✦ Matthew 13: The Parable of the Sower. **Props:** plants in various stages of growth. You can also provide a plant that is underdeveloped. Good: fertile soil. Poor: rock infested soil. These props can be used to explain Christian growth.
- ✦ Matthew 7: 24-27: Jesus uses a description of where a house is built to discuss the kingdom of God. For these passages, you choose the props!



**Notes:**

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