

‘Story for All Ages’ Guide

Thank you for being willing to be a Story for All Ages giver. It can be the most daunting and rewarding of all the elements of our services. However, it is also one of the most important parts of our life together. So, here are some tips:

1) Brevity and simplicity is key. Keep it short, keep it simple. Aim for 3 minutes and try not to exceed 5 minutes.

2) There is a great deal of debate about whom the SFAA is really for. Is it for the kids? For the adults? For both? The answer depends on whom you ask. If the adults cannot hear or see, they essentially tune out the SFAA. If the adults get too involved, the SFAA leaves the children behind. Often when a child is asked and gives an answer to a question, it draws laughter from the adults. That can either egg a child on to be a comedian or totally embarrass or intimidate a child. We have no answer on how to deal with that issue! It is a SFAA but it is also the only time in the service that is exclusively for the kids and it is a teaching time.

3) Books. Many folks love to read books for the SFAA. We discourage you from doing so. The adults cannot see and sometimes, the kids can't either. The stories often run longer than the kid's attention span and then the kids get interested in each other, the table legs of the altar table, etc. Become familiar with the book or story and tell it in your own words. Use the book very occasionally to illustrate the story but try not to read from it.

4) Involve the kids in any way you can. The more involved, the more they get out of it. However, try not to ask the kids more than 3 questions- they tend to go wild with more than that and things quickly degenerate.

And it is true that “out of the mouth of babes....”

Again, thank you for being willing to teach and learn from our children.