

## Why a Murder Mystery in Church?

Some may wonder, "Why would a church perform a murder mystery?" That is a good and valid question.

In God's Word, we see both the best and the worst of men. In Genesis, we read about Abel's murder by his brother, Cain. Scripture continues with other tragic murders. Even good men like Moses, David, and Saul of Tarsus are shown to break God's sixth commandment, "You shall not kill."

Every murder has a motive. Cain's motive was jealousy. Moses killed an Egyptian taskmaster for beating a Hebrew slave. David's uncontrolled lust for Bathsheba motivated him to murder her husband, Uriah, in a devious military plot. Saul of Tarsus used his religious beliefs as the basis for killing Stephen. The human heart, even the best of them, is capable of great evil.

Some of these drama scripts do contain murders to be investigated. Murder is not glorified or condoned in any way. It is not presented in ways that would be frightening. It is an act to be investigated and made right with the help of the audience.

Nearly every character in each script is a suspect. You will see desires for revenge, acts of jealousy, desperate attempts for money, etc. And yet we know that each motive begins in the human heart. Sometimes we who are involved in church forget how wicked our human hearts actually are.

Jesus explains in the Matthew 15:19, "Out of the heart proceed murders..." The prophet Jeremiah says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and is desperately wicked. Who can know it?"

Most of us will never be investigated for murder, but which of us has been free from the heart attitudes of jealousy, greed, hatred and such that is the root of all murder? The Bible declares, "All have sinned...There is none righteous, no not one." (*Romans 3:23, 10*)

Two thousand years ago, the only completely innocent person to ever live was murdered. Falsely accused and unjustly tried, He was brutally beaten and then, executed on a Roman cross in Jerusalem. Yet Almighty God used this savage murder as the perfect sacrifice. Now, all who seek God through Jesus Christ can find forgiveness.

These mystery events are clean, family fun and entertainment where people can invite friends from the community to come and fellowship together. It's a fellowship where the crowd doesn't just simply sit and watch. They laugh together, eat together, and strategize with one another. Friendships are built and memories are created.

Then towards the end of the evening, materials are provided for you to use - if you choose. These handouts help the crowd dig deeper by relating a concept from the story that evening to their story and their need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Plus, not only is the event great for those in attendance, there is a great bond that is built among cast members and crew.

My hope is that this document will help you to understand the answer to the question we started with, "Why a murder mystery in a church?" Thanks for listening. **- Nancy Bond**

© *Stuff 4 Church - Rick Shoemaker and Nancy Bond*