

## Bibliodrama

Submitted by Dove Weissman



Weekly study of the parsha can be so much fun when students really get involved. Through dramatic role play, students gain a greater understanding of the Torah, its lessons and characters. There are a number of resources for Bibliodrama (listed below) that are easy to use, require little planning, and terrific ways to teach Torah, ensure fun and creativity. It is also possible to do without these aids, just have a copy of the parsha on hand, and use your creativity. Each parsha contains so much, that it is easier to focus on one or two components thereof. You do not need to limit the characters to the people mentioned in the parsha, imagine what the actual scene would be, there are often people, animals or plants in the background that could have a lot to say about what's going on around them. Students should read through the parsha, summary or skit at least once before performing. I like to have the students read aloud, then have a set amount of time on their own, knowing who is playing which characters, to direct the performance. They always want more time directing, but limiting the planning allows for more spontaneity during the play.

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### \*Sedra Scenes

- ❑ Skits for Every Torah Portion, 20th Anniversary Edition  
by Stan J. Beiner

### Extraordinary Jews: Staging Their Lives

- ❑ One-Act Plays for Teens  
By Gabrielle Suzanne Kaplan
- ❑ Parashah Plays For Children of All Ages  
By Richard J. Allen
- ❑ Class Acts: Plays & Skits for Jewish Settings  
By Stan J. Beiner
- ❑ Kings and Things: 20 Jewish Plays for Kids 8 to 18  
By Meredith Shaw Patera
- ❑ The Magic Tanach and Other Short Plays  
by Gabrielle Suzanne Kaplan
- ❑ Bible Scenes: Joshua to Solomon  
By Stan J. Beiner
- ❑ Skits & Shpiels: 14 Plays for Grades 4 to 9  
By Meredith Shaw Patera

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Encouraging creativity in dramatic play also requires assurance that students have permission to be silly or outrageous. There is an importance to emphasize respect for Torah, as well as empowering students to make the story their own. It is amazing how they remember the funny details in a story they have acted out with their peers.

Check out this website for bibliodrama for adults.

[www.icmidrash.org/faculty/pitzck.htm](http://www.icmidrash.org/faculty/pitzck.htm)