

## **“At Just the Right Time”**

by  
Dave Tippet

- What** Based on a true story, this powerful and easy to stage Reader’s Theater chronicles a couples’ emotional highs and lows in adopting a daughter, the unexpected turn of events, and the arrival of God at just the right time.
- Themes: Christmas, Advent, Adoption, Marriage, Hope
- Who** Man  
Woman
- When** Present
- Costumes and Props** Scripts  
Binders for scripts  
Music type stands (optional) to hold binders/scripts
- Why** Jeremiah 29:11
- How** Woman and Man stand center stage, with scripts on stands, or in their hands. As in all effective Reader’s Theater, scripts should be memorized as much as possible, to allow freedom of the reader to give the piece the emotional range it needs. Have the actors occasionally turn towards each other or purposely look away from each other depending on the moment in the script. Finally, consider utilizing digital pictures to enhance the various emotions throughout the script.
- Suggested digital pictures: Paperwork. Map of China. Large jet. Baby. Hospital ER. Small nativity. A baby Jesus in a manger. A wrapped gift. Wedding. Christmas star in the sky. This is not an exclusive list, and use whatever pictures you feel work best for your production. To find digital pictures, search “Copyright free pictures”.
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

At curtain, **Woman** and **Man** walk onto the stage, stop at center stage. They settle and after a beat...

**Woman:** *(talking out to audience)* We had tried for so long.

**Man:** *(talking out to audience)* So long, for a child of our own. It just, well

**Both:** Never happened.

**Woman:** So, we finally decided to adopt.

**Man:** We went through the process.

**Woman:** Did all the paperwork.

**Man:** The interviews.

**Woman:** Home visits.

**Man:** References.

**Woman:** The finances.

**Man:** All mixed in with copious amounts of prayer of course.

**Woman:** *(emphasizes)* Copious.

**Man:** I rehearsed being a rookie dad. *(joking a bit)* Clean your room! You want to go where? You have to earn that allowance!

**Woman:** *(joining in)* You're going out with who?!

**Man:** We saw what you posted.

**Woman:** Well, someone painted the dog!

**Man:** But, the good stuff, too. *(serious tone now)* You are so special.

**Woman:** You're one of a kind.

**Man:** You've got a purpose in life.

**Woman:** I...I love you a lot. *(pause)* But we wondered. I wondered. Can I do this? Will I know the right things to say, to do? It's so easy to make mistakes. And—

**Man:** Will the child truly feel my love?

**Woman:** Will they know I have their best interests at heart?

**Man:** Will...they love me back? I've had friends tell me of their children turning away from them.

**Woman:** Rebelling.

**Man:** Detaching. *(pause)* Could that happen to me?

**Both:** Us? *(pause)*

**Man:** Then, the news came. There was a baby for us!

**Woman:** A little girl.

**Man:** Gulp.

**Woman:** She'll be precious. I just know it.

**Man:** Um, er, umm, gulp.

**Woman:** *(to Man)* You got this.

**Man:** *(clearly his throat, smiles back at Woman)* We got this.

**Woman:** Our little girl, ready to be picked up.

**Man:** *(subtle sarcasm now)* And she was just right around the corner!

**Both:** In China.

**Man:** Yes, but we were determined.

**Woman:** We got our passports up to speed, more paperwork, more waiting. Then, we got the green light to go.

**Both:** And we did.

**Man:** An 18-hour flight.

**Woman:** I think I watched 14 movies.

**Man:** I went through a whole season of The Fresh Prince.

**Woman:** Downton Abbey.

**Man:** All the Die Hards.

**Woman:** All the while, we had anxiety mixed with anticipation.

**Man:** The arrival of a new child. For us.

**Woman:** We finally arrived and connected with the local agency.

**Man:** And after more days waiting, we got the word that our baby was ready to meet us.

**Woman:** I'll never forget the moment we saw her. Glowing. Beautiful. Amazing.

**Both:** Perfect.

**Woman:** We gathered her up and prepared for the flight home.

**Man:** Another 18-hour flight. When we arrived back home, however, everything—

**Woman:** Changed. *(pause)* Our new baby, who we named Mae, started to struggle right away with her health.

**Man:** We could tell things weren't right, and at one point, she was having trouble breathing.

**Woman:** We rushed her to the ER.

**Man:** And, after emergency intervention and testing—

**Woman:** We were told that the lack of oxygen affected her brain. *(pause)*

**Man:** Our Glowing. Beautiful. Amazing child wouldn't be... *(trails off)*

**Woman:** She'd have a different life than we anticipated.

**Man:** We'd have a different life than we anticipated. *(pause)*

**Woman:** We fell to our knees.

**Man:** Asking God why, why, after giving us the gift of a baby—

**Woman:** This baby. That this had to happen? *(pause)*

**Man:** After some time, we got up.

**Woman:** We sat with each other and just rested while they continued with Mae.

**Man:** It was around Christmas, and the ER was decorated.

**Woman:** It was a faith-based hospital, and we noticed a small nativity.

**Man:** There. In the nativity. The baby.

**Woman:** And Mary.

**Man:** Joseph.

**Woman:** I looked at Mary. Did she

**Man:** Fear? I looked at Joseph. Did he

**Woman:** Doubt?

**Man:** They saw, their baby.

**Woman:** The Christ.

**Man:** As a promise fulfilled. And their

**Woman:** Trust.

**Man:** Began.

**Woman:** We wondered. Could we

**Man:** Trust, too? *(pause)*

**Woman:** We knew the answer.

**Man:** In our moments of great doubts

**Woman:** God arrived.

**Man:** Reminding us of His gift of the Savior. A promise fulfilled. And of His gift of Mae. A gift that was

**Both:** Perfect.

**Woman:** We felt an immediate change of heart. Mae was our baby. Still full of potential.

**Man:** His gift.

**Woman:** Yes, this was a road that we had not anticipated, but it's one we now embraced. And in the 20 years since

**Man:** God continued to arrive, in the form of doctors, therapists, programs, and always, always

**Both:** Him.

**Woman:** Saying to us, over the years, you are special. You are one of a kind. You have a purpose in life. I'll love you back, because I loved you first.

**Man:** And we reminded Mae of all of that, too.

**Woman:** Over and over again.

**Man:** And then, seeing Mae fall in love.

**Woman:** And set to be married soon.

**Man:** I know I'll completely fall apart when I hear Who will be giving away this woman? *(exaggerated, comical crying)*

**Woman:** Uh, me too! *(both chuckle. Pause)*

**Man:** Our God. Sending His son. To us. At just the right time.

**Woman:** Changing hearts.

**Man:** Lives.

**Woman:** Perspectives.

**Both:** When we needed Him most.

*Lights out.*