

a script from
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“Called Back to Egypt”

by
Cara Walter

What This Readers Theater presents a light-hearted look at Moses immediately after he encounters God in the burning bush.

Themes: Crisis of Belief, Faith in Action, Moses, Burning Bush, Reader's Theatre

Who
Man 1
Man 2
Man3

When Ancient past

Costumes and Props Biblical clothes or modern casual (storytellers) with Biblical accessories—shepherds' headdress
Scripts
Music stands

Sound Effect Shout and then running footsteps

Why Exodus 3:1-4:17

How The actors present this piece in a traditional Reader's Theatre style. Each actor (1,2, and 3) stands behind his own music stand and reads from the script. They need to be well-rehearsed in order to perform it with appropriate timing, smooth flowing sentences, and special vocal effects such as overlapping and echoing. Gestures and specific interactions with one another should also be planned and rehearsed. They also perform their own sound effects.

Time Approximately 3-4 minutes

The three men take their places behind music stands on stage. The scene begins with a sound effect—a shout and then the sound of running footsteps and heavy, fast breathing.

Man 1: Shoving his feet into the sandals he ran—

Man 2: half flying, half stumbling down the hillside

Man 3: excited

Man 2: confused

2&3: worried

All: afraid.

Pause as breathing calms down.

Man 1: He was just an ordinary man

Man 3: a regular guy

Man 2: an average joe.

Man 1: It had to be a mistake, he thought.

1&2: (laugh)That's it; a mistake!

Man 3: (making light of it) Just a trick of the eyes, a hallucination maybe...

Man 2: a bush on fire that didn't burn...

Man 1: the big voice that called him over,

All: "Moses!"

Man 1: Standing on Holy

Man 2: Holy

Man 3: Holy

All: Ground. (Accepting that the event actually happened—vocal groan or whistle- fearful)

Man 2: Why would the LORD—

Man 1: the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,

Man 2: yes. Why would the LORD—

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Man 3: the Great I AM,

Man 2: Right! Why would He choose such a man for this challenging assignment, he wondered?

Man 1: Moses was too old.

Man 3: Actually, he was nearly 80 by this time

Man 1: with a grizzled appearance and leathery skin.

Man 2: Don't forget

2&1: the gray beard.

Man 3: He was not too old! He was just...

Man 2: unskilled to do this task.

Man 3: Unprepared.

Man 1: Unwilling?

Man 2: Unable to speak...

All: Unworthy.

Man 1: No.

Man 2: No.

Man 3: No! What could God be thinking?

Man 2: Surely the God of his Fathers remembered his temper?

Man 3: So many fights.

Man 1: So many times he acted rashly

1& 2: without thinking.

Man 3: And then there was the killing;

Man 2: he witnessed an Egyptian task master beating a Hebrew slave.

Man 1: He struck out with rage and then tried to bury his crime in the sand.

Man 3: He was volatile.

Man 2: He was cowardly.

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2&3: He was a loser.

Spitting "pooh""pooh""pooh".

Man 1: The man slowed as he carefully made his way down the slope.

All: "Why should I take such a risk?"

Man 3: he thought.

Man 1: Moses may not have lived in luxury,

Man 2: like during his youth in Pharaoh's palace,

Man 1: but he had a—

1&2: comfortable life in Midian.

Man 3: He was just a simple shepherd who worked hard...

Man 2: He had a wonderful relationship with his father-in-law, Jethro—

Man 1: a good man who treated him like his own son.

Man 3: He thought too about his wife Zipporah and his children as he made his way to the village of his people.

Man 2: They weren't really his people.

Man 3: Truth be told, he was a man without a country.

Man 1: Moses was raised as a prince in Egypt

2&3: but he never fit in.

Man 1: He didn't understand why not at the time...

Man 3: He just knew he was different from the others somehow.

Man 2: Later as an adult, he learned the truth about his origins and met his—

All: Hebrew family.

1&3: He didn't fit in with them either.

Man 1: How could he possibly appear before Pharaoh or the Hebrew elders?

All: NO ONE would listen to him!

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Man 1: He leaned heavily on his staff, forcing his feet to go on as his mind raced wildly

Man 3: excited

Man 2: confused

2&3: worried

All: afraid.

Man 1: UNTIL he remembered...the snake.

Man 3: Moses suddenly straightened himself and loosened his grip as he uneasily eyed his staff.

Man 2: What had been an ordinary shepherd's tool of the trade for many years would never be the same.

Man 1: God had given Moses the power to show his people signs—

Man 3: a snake and a leprous hand!

Man 2: Pretty creepy if you ask me...

Man 1: Signs that God was with him.

Man 3: Don't forget God also told Moses that his brother Aaron would help be his mouthpiece—

1&2: because Moses wasn't a speaker.

Man 3: Remembering God's promise of provision helped make him feel better as he drew closer to his humble home.

Man 2: Maybe the Hebrew elders would listen to him...

Man 1: Maybe things wouldn't go so badly with Pharaoh...

Man 3: The rest of what God had said was kind of a blur now.

2&3: The burning bush had freaked him out!

Man 2: Now he wished he had asked the LORD more questions...

Man 1: He thought he remembered something about the Egyptians giving the departing Hebrews all of their gold and silver?

Man 3: And what was that bit about the land of milk and honey?

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All: Maybe everything would work out all right after-all...
Man 2: But first he had to convince his wife.

Lights out.

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