

A script from



“It Happened Again:A Reading About Violence”

by
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What	This Reader's Theater script helps to bring hope to tragic events like the shootings in Las Vegas. It urges audiences to remember what happened and to remember God's sovereignty the next time something terrible happens. Themes: Fear, Terrorism, Violence, Hope, Confusion, God's Sovereignty
Who	Reader 1 Reader 2 Reader 3
When	Present
Wear (Props)	3 Black Folders
Why	Habakkuk 1, Psalm 71
How	Readers should try to project intensity in their voices. For tips and ideas watch How to Perform a Reader's Theatre on SkitGuys.com!
Time	Approximately 3 minutes

Readers enter and address the audience.

All: It happened again.

Reader 1: All in 2017. Distinct locations. Unfathomable numbers.

Reader 2: A library in Clovis, New Mexico.

Reader 1: Two dead, four wounded.

Reader 3: A private home in Plano, Texas.

Reader 1: Nine dead, one wounded.

Reader 2: An airport in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Reader 1: Five dead, six wounded.

Reader 3: A shipping warehouse in San Francisco, California.

Reader 1: Three dead.

Reader 2: A supermarket in Eaton Township, Pennsylvania.

Reader 1: Three dead.

Reader 3: A hospital in the Bronx, New York.

Reader 1: One dead, six wounded.

Reader 2: A manufacturing business in Orlando, Florida.

Reader 1: Five dead.

Reader 3: A church in Antioch, Tennessee.

Reader 1: One dead, seven wounded.

Reader 2: A country music concert in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Reader 1: Fifty-nine dead, more than five hundred wounded.

Reader 2: These places will become lodged in our minds, sparking unpleasant feelings in the years to come, when someone mentions them.

Reader 3: We will not remember the numbers, or the details, but we will file the locations away, just as we have with others.

Reader 2: A movie theater in Aurora, Colorado.

Reader 1: An office Christmas party in San Bernardino, California.

Reader 3: An elementary school in Sandy Hook, New Jersey.

Reader 2: A middle school in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Reader 1: A high school in Columbine, Colorado.

Reader 3: A college campus in Blacksburg, Virginia.

All: It happened again.

Reader 3: We offer prayers. We extend sympathy. We express anger.

Reader 1: We try—and fail—to understand. We pontificate. We blivate.

Reader 2: We become weary of the coverage. We grow numb to the tragedy. We move on.

All: We forget.

Reader 1: Somehow, we forget.

Reader 3: Heaven help us, we forget.

Reader 2: God forgive us. We forget.

Reader 1: With our fragile human minds, we cannot understand.

Reader 2: Like the prophet Habakkuk, we cry out

Reader 3: How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen?

Reader 2: Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?

Reader 1: Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Reader 3: Destruction and violence are before me;

Reader 2: there is strife, and conflict abounds.

Reader 3: The law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails.

Reader 1: And like David, we hurl these words at God:

Reader 2: Why do you hold back your hand?

Reader 3: Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!

Pause

Reader 1: We do not stand before you today with answers, but with questions.

Reader 2: We do not stand before you today with platitudes and proverbs, but with eyes red with weeping.

Reader 3: We do not stand before you today with solutions, but with broken hearts.

Reader 1: But like David, we also say...

Reader 3: As for me, I will always have hope;

Reader 2: I will praise You, God,

Reader 1: more and more I will praise You.

Reader 2: We also stand before you with...

All: A challenge.

Reader 3: We challenge you to do more than type a comment that says "Prayers".

Reader 1: We challenge you to enter into God's presence and plead for Him to show you what action to take.

Reader 2: We challenge you to live with love and compassion in the face of terror and fear.

Reader 1: Resist the inclination to fall into the "us" versus "them" trap.

Reader 3: Resist the tendency to give in to weariness.

Reader 2: Resist the urge to walk away because the problem is too big.

Reader 1: Rewrite the stances and the creeds that slow you down in your pursuit of Christ.

Reader 2: Renew your relationship with God by reading His word every day.

Reader 3: Reimagine your role in a society that needs Jesus more than ever.

Reader 2: Resolve to be Christ's love to a dark, dark world.

Reader 3: Resolve to be Christ's hands to those who need His touch.

Reader 1: Resolve to be Christ's voice to those who need His words.

Pause

Reader 2: It happened again.

Reader 3: And it WILL probably happen again.

Reader 2: As the people of God, what will we do about it?

Reader 1: Whatever else you do...

All: Remember.