

a script from

231 WORSHIP

“What the Manger Saw”

By
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What	This Reader's Theater presents the unique perspective of the manger that held the Christ child. Themes: Christmas, Christmas Eve, Redemption, Nativity, Manger
Who	Reader 1 Reader 2 Reader 3 Reader 4
When	Present
Costumes	Period clothing or modern attire
Props	Four music stands (optional)
Why	1 Corinthians 6:11
How	Empty stage. Project an image of an empty manger or use a prop manger placed in front of readers. Readers are spread out from stage right to stage left. Each holding a folder with the script or script placed on a music stand in front of them. 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. For tips on how to perform a Reader's Theatre, watch How to Perform at a Reader's Theatre at 231worshipcom.
Time	Approximately 2-3 minutes

*At curtain, **Readers** enter. Once settled, they address the audience.*

All: Clean.

Pause.

Reader 1: I am used. A manger.

Reader 2: A place to feed.

Reader 3: Donkeys, sheep goats.

Reader 2: Livestock.

Reader 1: Dried grass.

Reader 2: Straw.

Reader 3: Grains.

Reader 4: I feed.

Reader 1: I Nourish.

Reader 2: I... sustain-

Reader 3: All creatures.

Reader 4: I am also-

All: Dirty.

Reader 1: Unclean.

Reader 4: But it's my lot.

Pause.

Reader 2: Then. Tonight.

Reader 3: *They* come into the stable.

Reader 4: A man and a woman.

Reader 3: She's pregnant.

Reader 2: Very.

Reader 3: He's-

Reader 4: Nervous.

Reader 3: Very.

Reader 2: I hear the man, as he's looking down at me.

Reader 3: *(strong voice)* This won't do. It's... it's a dirty-

Reader 4: Trough!

Reader 1: She calms him, though *(softer voice)* We have no choice. We have to-

All: Trust God.

Pause.

Reader 1: They do.

Reader 2: Now, strong hands around and through me, cleaning out the feed,
wiping away the dirt.

Reader 3: Then fresh straw added.

Reader 2: A bed, ready to receive.

Reader 1: Now, the moans of the woman.

Reader 2: The nervous breathing of the man.

Reader 3: And then-

Reader 4: A tender cry.

All: A baby.

Reader 1: He-

Reader 2: Is brought to me. I hold him.

Reader 3: Fresh straw. Secure and warm.

Reader 4: Soon, those who tend sheep-

Reader 1: Arrive.

Reader 4: They stand. In awe.

Reader 3: In wonder. Of him.

Reader 4: They talk about an announcement.

Reader 1: Good news.

Reader 2: Of great joy.

All: To all people.

Reader 3: A Savior is born.

Pause

Reader 4: I cradle him. Gently.

Reader 1: Secure and warm.

All: Clean.

Reader 4: Clean because -

Reader 3: *He* arrived.

Reader 4: To all people.

Reader 1: To start a journey, spreading-

Reader 2: Good news.

Reader 3: Great joy.

Reader 4: Savior.

Reader 1: To make us all-

All: Clean.

Lights out.