

“What the Water Saw”

by
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What This Reader's Theater presents a unique perspective of water in key moments in the ministry of Christ. Perfect for Holy Week or Easter, this script can be performed on a socially-distanced traditional stage or via a video platform like Zoom.

Themes: Easter, Living Water, Resurrection, Reader's Theatre

Who Reader 1
Reader 2
Reader 3
Reader 4

When Present

Wear (Props) For traditional stage, readers are spread out from stage right to stage left. Each holding a folder with the script. 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.

Why Matthew 3:13-17, 27:24, 51-54; Mark 4:35-41, John 4,13

How Empty stage or empty Zoom windows, with each Reader appearing one at a time as they start to speak. Find background graphics (either virtual or slides for tradition stage) of moments being explored in each scene.

For tips on how to perform a Reader's Theatre, watch [How to Perform a Reader's Theatre](#) at SkitGuys.com.

Time Approximately 5 minutes

Readers address the audience.

All: Water.

Pause

Reader 1: I fill the river. A hand. Dipping into me. Deeply.

Reader 2: Slowly, with purpose.

Reader 3: Then, out, in the open, I land on another head. Splash. Covering. Rolling off as they stand again. Then.

Reader 4: The hand, again, dipping. I'm washing, cleansing, healing.

Reader 1: Preparing.

All: Being used.

Reader 2: Over and over. Then it stops.

Reader 3: Confused voices. The dipper named John. Drops his hands into me, I cover his knees now.

Reader 4: A new voice, stronger, urging the dipper. New knees appear and I cover.

Reader 1: Hands cup me, pull me up and into the sky and hover over the new one. Then, I descend and cover the new one.

Reader 2: As he rises, a larger voice, from far away. His son, it tells us.

Reader 3: Jesus. The one.

Reader 4: A dove I see.

Reader 1: I retreat back and wait.

Pause

Scene 2

Reader 1: I reside in the well.

Reader 2: She, a Samaritan, looks down at me, longing for that long drink, refreshing.

Reader 3: Revitalizing.

Reader 4: Talking now to Jesus. The one. She offers drink, he declines.

Reader 1: He's about—

All: Living water. *(pause)*

Reader 2: A much deeper dive than mine.

Reader 3: He reveals so much of her. She sees, the living water offered by the one.

Reader 4: The Messiah. He reveals the same, and she hears. And—

Reader 1: She spreads the news.

Reader 2: Thirsting.

Reader 3: No more. *(pause)*

Scene 3

Reader 1: I am turbulent, swirling, crashing, loud.

Reader 2: Chaotic.

Reader 3: The men in the boat above me, I hear their cries.

Reader 4: Their panic.

Reader 1: Their fear.

Reader 2: I break over their boat, filling it, and their fear rises.

Reader 3: The One, however.

Reader 4: Sleeps.

Reader 1: The men are angry, yelling at him to awake.

Reader 2: I continue with a furious onslaught.

Reader 3: I smash into them, they hold on, accusing the one of not caring if they—

Reader 4: Drown.

Reader 1: The One is awake, fully now, with intent to—

Reader 2: Demonstrate.

Reader 3: I rise up once more over them and then. And then.

All: I am rebuked.

Reader 4: Driven to obey the majesty that commands—

Reader 1: Quiet.

Reader 2: Calm.

Reader 3: Peace.

Reader 4: Still. The men's fear grows. Not about me.

Reader 1: But about the One.

Reader 2: Who has such command over me? Who tells them to have—

Reader 3: Faith, despite the chaos.

All: Of the storm. *(pause)*

Scene 4

Reader 1: I fill the basin. Full, up to the edge.

Reader 2: The One is there, with his friends.

Reader 3: A joyous meal, reminiscing of the journey.

Reader 4: Celebrating.

All: Passover.

Reader 1: Several are eyeing me, wondering.

Reader 2: Several eye each other, wondering.

Reader 3: The One sings, they sing the songs of their faith. The room quiets and I remain—

Reader 4: Ready. To serve.

Reader 1: The One stands, wraps himself in a towel.

Reader 2: He comes to me, cups his hands and uses me to wash, the feet.

Reader 3: Each one. Washes. As a servant.

All: I clean with his hands.
Pause

Reader 4: One, named Peter, refuses. The One explains, it must happen to be part of him.

Reader 1: But One of them remains—

All: Unclean.

Pause

Reader 2: And leaves to betray. The One. Who stays.

Reader 3: He takes the cup.

Reader 4: His blood, poured out for many.

Reader 1: A new relationship.

Reader 2: Redemption.

All: Reconciliation

Reader 3: The One takes the bread. His body—

Reader 4: Broken. Remember, he asks.

All: Remember.

Pause

Scene 5

Reader 1: I lay in a bowl, quiet, shallow, almost forgotten.

Reader 2: On a table owned by the one called—

All: Pilate.

Pause

Reader 3: A trial was happening and the One stood.

Reader 4: Beaten.

Reader 1: Bloody. Standing.

All: Taking it.

Reader 2: Questions, accusations, crowd screaming, side conversations.

Reader 3: Worried tone. Pilate.

Reader 4: Afraid of the crowd now. The blood, on the One.

Reader 1: Pilate calling for me.

Reader 2: Yelling all around now.

Reader 3: He plunges his dirty hands into me, raising them as—

All: Clean.

Reader 4: Screaming his innocence of the blood in plain sight. It was on the crowd.

Reader 1: He said. The responsibility.

Reader 2: For the blood. And what was to come.

Reader 3: I cleaned.

All: Nothing.

Pause

Scene 6

Reader 1: I am the rain.

Reader 2: I tumble and fall from the heavens. Light at first, then heavier.

Reader 3: And heavier, falling on the one.

Reader 4: The cross.

Reader 1: The sacrifice.

Reader 2: The great reconnecting. Redemption.

All: Reconciliation.

Reader 3: I cover the body now, laying on the ground.

Reader 4: Mourners shield themselves, and cry.

All: Tears as rain.
Pause
Scene 7

Reader 1: I am a pool. In a house of faith.

Reader 2: So many years later.

Reader 3: By the poolside, seekers. Stand.

Reader 4: Waiting their turn. Ones who know the rain.

All: Stopped.

Reader 1: They know. A tomb. Empty.

Reader 2: Forever.

Reader 3: So many lives changed. Their lives. Now, they wish to—

All: Plunge.

Reader 4: They declare the change, the desire to be washed.

Reader 1: Clean.

Reader 2: They plunge, cleansing and healing, a great sweeping away, and up now, out of me and into the light.

Reader 3: Of the one. To thirst.

All: No more.

Lights out.

AT

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