

CROSSPOINT Youth scripts

August-September 2000

Synopsis: Jesus' story of the two sons who were told to work in their father's vineyard is retold in a sort of mock-Shakespearean Readers Theater. The first son disobeys at first, but then reconsiders. The second son spends the day telling everyone how bad his brother is.

Topic: Obedience, Self-Righteousness, Criticism, Judging

Time Requirements: 5 minutes

Characters: Four readers

Props: Stools and Scripts

Technical: Two or three mikes on stands

User's Guide

 **Scripture link:** Well here's how the story was originally told. Matthew 21:28-31 "There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you."



Author's note:

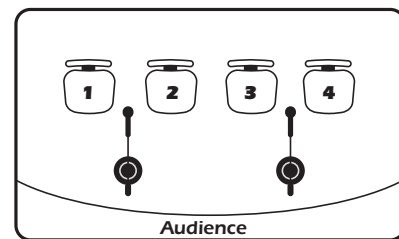
Reader's Theatre can best be described as team story-telling. Here's a few general tips:

- 1) Eliminate space between lines so that readers are almost jumping in on top of each other.*
- 2) Look down when it's not your line, but deliver your line with full eye contact with the audience.*
- 3) Don't look at each other even when you're talking to each other.*
- 4) Be extra expressive. Your face and voice have to do all the acting here.*



Mutiny in the Vineyard

Stage Setup:



Script

0 minutes

- #1:** Behold there was a Master of a vast vineyard who didst have two sons. And by and by he went to the first and said:
- #3:** Son, get off thine rear end and work today in my vineyard.
- #1:** But the son was disobedient, and had no will to comply.
- #2:** I will not
- #1:** He answered his father, and went out to wayfare at the video arcade.
- #4:** I will not?
- #1:** Sayeth the second son.
- #4:** Father didst thou hear that? He sayeth, "I will not."
- #3:** I have heard it.
- #1:** Replied the father and turned straightway to his second son.



Discussion point: Why does the first son flat out refuse to go? Isn't that kind of dangerous? Would you get away with that at home?



Scripture link: Proverbs 16: 1-2 To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue. All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.



Discussion point: How do the sons feel about each other? Are they competing for their father's attention?

Blocking: Since the whole story is told by readers on stools, there's no real blocking to worry about. But make sure readers still gesture and use normal body language.



Author's note: The second son lives to beat his brother, and seeks any opportunity to point out his faults.



Author's note: This needs to be a loud whisper. Reader #4 should cup his hand to his mouth while Reader #3 cups his to his ear. But both remain focused toward the audience, not each other.

#3: Now son, go and work today in my vineyard.

#4: But father,

#1: exclaimeth the son.

#4: Didst thou not hear what my brother hath said? He sayeth, "I will not."

#3: I have heard it.

#1: Answered the father.

#3: And it is none of thy business. But now make haste and go and work in my vineyard.

#4: Verily, I shall.

#1: Assured the second son.

1 minute

#4: Verily I shall. Thou bettest I will. Thou shouldst watch and see. Dost thou desire to see work? Thou shalt see work. I shall toil like no other. Not in the manner of my disobedient brother. I shall work, father.

#3: Good.

#1: Sayeth the father. And turneth to his own pursuits. By and by the second son departeth for the vineyard. But on the way he beheld another vinedresser.

#4: Say, thou dost good work there.

#1: sayeth the son.

#4: Doubtless my father will admire it. Verily, I shall labor with thee soon. But, alas, first I must tell thee what mine eyes didst see today.

#1: So the lad drew nigh unto the vinedresser and whispered in his ear.

#4: My own brother laboreth not in the vineyard, but wasteth his day at the video arcade. I didst hear it with mine own ears.

#1: The worker was likewise disgusted and the two didst sit to discuss it till the sun waxed hot in the sky.

#4: Well, I shouldst be going.

#1: Sayeth the second son.

#4: My work in the vineyard calleth out to me. 'Tis a great work I do there. For my father

didst ask me personally to labor today. Tis' a great honor to work so diligently

2 minutes

- #1:** And straightway he didst depart. But before he cometh to the fields, he didst find a place to retire.
- #4:** Whew! Tis a long way to my father's fields. I shall sit and rest here for a season.
- #1:** And as travelers passed by he couldst not resist speaking, but raggeth on his brother to all who wouldst listen.
- #4:** Didst thou know...
- #1:** He would say
- #4:** Not everyone worketh today in the vineyard? Mine own brother hath taken the day off and hath no intention of work. He squandereth his fortune at the video arcade. I didst hear it with mine own ears.
- #1:** A times little crowds didst gather around him so that he became quite good at his speech.
- #4:** And so, let us remember, one and all, to do not as my rebellious and wayfaring brother hath done! We must be about work of the vineyard!

3 minutes

- #1:** The crowd doth heartily agree. Now by and by, the first son didst use up his first roll of quarters. Before long his mind runneth back to his father.
- #2:** Fancy a father who doth permit his son to disobey? Verily, I shouldst be in the vineyard. Yet he maketh no argument about it.
- #1:** The lad didst muse about it all the morning long until, alas, after 2 million points on Jet Squadron Commander, he repenteth of his sin.
- #2:** Verily I am fallen.
- #1:** He concluded.
- #2:** And in deep hooey. I shouldst test not my father's patience. He allows me this error, but I shall not expect his forbearance to continue forever. Perchance, if I return, he might forgive this indiscretion and restore my position in the vineyard.
- #1:** So the boy returneth straightway to the vineyard and didst toil all the afternoon.

 **Author's note:** Reader #4 needs to project here as if he's addressing a great crowd with a lot of pomp and pride.

 **Author's Note:** Even though Reader's Theater allows you to have scripts, it still takes work to get it right. Don't expect to get a flow going rhythmically until you've been through it 4 or 5 times.



Discussion Point: Discussion point: Are you more like the first son or the second?



Scripture Link:

John 9:40-41

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."



Discussion point: There are two kinds of people in the world. Those who look good and those who really are good. How do you tell the difference?

And behold, at day's end, the father calleth his sons to review their day's labor.

#3: And so what doest thou today?

#2: Have mercy on me, O Father.

#1: Entreated the first son, contrite in spirit and downcast

#2: For I didst labor only half the day, spoiling the first half on Jet Squadron Commander.

4 minutes

#4: Tis'a lie!

#1: Countereth the second.

#4: He refuseth to work. I didst hear it with mine own ears.

#3: To the contrary,

#1: Sayeth the father.

#3: He hath spoken truly.

#4: Wherefore!

#1: Shouted the first.

#4: If he wast in thine vineyard working, why didst I not see him?

#1: And his father answered and sayeth unto him

#3: Thou saw him not because thou didst spend thy entire day telling others about thy brother's negligence.

#4: But father, he hath blown thee off!

#3: In thine zeal to condemn thy brother, thou hath also blown me off. For at least he hath seen his error, while thou dost yet deny thine.

#2: And the lad went away angry, and labored in the vineyard no more.

#1: Now pray tell, Whether of them twain did the will of his father? Verily, verily I say unto thee, publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before that slothful and self-righteous brother. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

5 minutes

Lights Out.

 **Author's note:** Reader #4 is so upset, he can literally jump off the stool for a second.

 "Own Me", by Ginny Owens (BMG Songs, 1999 Rocketown Records), fits this drama extremely well. It addresses both sons in the story, who fall short of not only their father's expectations, but God's desire for their lives.

Life is a journey and God's grace is needed many times along the way. It's versatile style can fit with either upbeat, or quieter worship times.



Discussion point: Jesus seemed to favor the son who openly disobeyed. How can that be? What does God think of good intentions?

Date Performed: _____
Actors Used: _____



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