

“The Curtain of Debt”

by
Jenny Craiger

What This Readers Theatre for Easter focuses on the debt that Jesus paid on the cross so that we no longer have to be separated from our God.

Themes: Easter, God’s Love, Jesus’ Sacrifice, the Torn Veil, Good Friday

Who Reader 1
Reader 2
Reader 3

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Spotlight and Cross (if available)

Why Matthew 27; Romans 8:38-39; Isaiah 59:2; Colossians 2:13-14

How Readers should perform lines with attention to the mood for each section, using pauses, speed, pitch and volume to make the reading dynamic, but not abrupt. Suggestions are offered in the script. If a cross and spotlight are unavailable, a projection of a cross may also be used. The reading can be adjusted for more or fewer readers as needed.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Readers are on stage in numerical order across the front of the stage. A cross is located center stage behind the readers.

Reader 2: *(solemn and moderate speed)* A heavy veil draping from sky to ground.

Reader 1: Immense.

Slight pause.

Reader 2: Impenetrable.

Slight pause.

Reader 3: Immovable.

Slight pause.

Reader 2: *(sadly)* Woven with the coarse threads of my sin.

Reader 1: *(desperate)* I try to go around it,

Reader 3: Over it,

Reader 2: Through it.

Reader 1: To reach my God.

Reader 3: *(wistfully)* To breathe in everlasting peace and forgiveness,

Reader 2: *(disappointed)* Instead of constant regret.

The next lines are spoken with increasing hopelessness and sadness, growing quiet and slower in speed. At the line "Uncleaned and unredeemed," all Readers have lowered their heads. If possible, dim the lights at that part, but be certain that the Readers can still see.

Reader 1: But I can't overcome it.

Reader 2: Instead it hangs as a constant reminder of my failures.

Reader 3: Casting a dark shadow over me.

Reader 1: A vast curtain of debt.

Reader 3: I cower behind it, beg for freedom, plead for mercy.

Reader 2: Soiled and separated.

Reader 1: Bankrupt by my choices.

Reader 2: And unable to move under the weight of my polluted soul.

Reader 3: No way to pay my ever-growing debt.

Reader 1: Isolated and wandering.

Reader 3: Unclean and unredeemed.

Pause

Reader 2: *(lifts head as if looking for something, spoken with uncertain hope)* And yet...

If available, spotlight highlights the cross and lights can undim. All Readers lift their heads and become more hopeful, but reflective speaking of Jesus' sacrifice.

Reader 3: Behind that ugly curtain, the stage has already been set.

Reader 2: I watch the scene play out.

Reader 1: A cross on a hill.

Reader 3: The betrayal of a dear friend.

Reader 2: A mock trial.

Reader 1: A punishment for an innocent Man.

All: Jesus.

Reader 1: Scorned.

Reader 2: Beaten.

Reader 3: A nail piercing flesh.

Reader 2: The Lamb of God.

Reader 1: Sacrificed in my place.

Reader 3: A final breath.

Growing excited as if realizing the enormity of Jesus' sacrifice.

Reader 1: Earth shaking.

Reader 3: Rocks splitting.

Reader 2: The curtain is torn from top to bottom.

All: It is finished.

Reader 2: *(ponderingly)* The scenes roll through my mind.

Reader 1: *(excited)* And the scales finally fall from my eyes.

Reader 3: *(confident)* My fight can already be won.

Reader 2: *(hopeful)* This guilty veil can be removed.

Reader 1: *(reverently)* I fall on my knees,

Readers kneel.

All: Jesus, please forgive me.

Pause

Reader 1: *(stands excitedly)* Earth shaking.

Reader 3: *(stands excitedly)* Rocks splitting.

Reader 2: *(stands excitedly)* My curtain of debt is torn from top to bottom.

Readers are growing quieter, but content, peaceful and hopeful until the end.

Reader 3: In its place, a new cloak of pure white, woven from the broken body of the Lamb.

Reader 1: Forgiveness.

Reader 2: A new covenant.

Reader 3: A new relationship with my Lord.

Reader 1: Jesus' lips whispering in my ear,

All: "It is finished."

Reader 2: "Your certificate of debt is paid in full."

All: Thank you, Jesus.

Lights down.