

## **“Things of God: Cup”**

### **A Lenten Reading**

by  
Paul Neil

**What** Thinking of the bitterness of the drink offered to Jesus on the cross, this Readers Theater explores the idea that we often end up with a cup running over with things we don't want. But we're reminded that Jesus drank the cup of God's judgment so we wouldn't have to.

**Themes:** Easter, Lent, Pain, Struggles, Judgment, Sacrifice, Crucifixion

**Who** Reader 1  
Reader 2  
Reader 3

**When** Now

**Wear (Props)** Readers may dress in black, or in clothing of their choosing. Coordinating binders should be used to hold the script.

**Why** Matthew 26:15

**How** This is a reader's theater piece. All Readers need to work together to maintain a consistent rhythm. It should feel as if one person is reading. For more ideas watch How to Perform a Reader's Theatre on SkitGuys.com.

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Readers enter, take their places, and open their notebooks.*

**Reader 1:** Cup. Noun. A small, open container, sometimes having a handle, used chiefly as a receptacle from which to drink.

**Reader 2:** What does your favorite coffee cup say on it?

**Reader 3:** #1 Grandma?

**Reader 1:** World's Best Boss?

**Reader 3:** Myrtle Beach?

**Reader 1:** Stressed, Blessed, and Coffee Obsessed?

**Reader 2:** Or maybe it just says "Starbucks".

**Reader 3:** Maybe you believe that coffee is constant proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.

**Reader 2:** And whatever kind of cup it's in, you know what to expect when you take that first sip.

**Reader 1:** A caffe latte with whipped cream and a caramel drizzle.

**Reader 3:** Chai with an extra shot of vanilla.

**Reader 2:** Or just plain old truck-stop coffee with a cream and two sugars.

**Reader 1:** You ordered it, or you poured it yourself, but it's exactly what you wanted.

**Reader 2:** But what if it wasn't?

**Reader 3:** What if you dropped a sugar cube in your cup only to discover it was full of beef broth?

**Reader 1:** What if you took that first sip from the cup and tasted gasoline?

**Reader 2:** What if you took a big swig and got a mouthful of Elmer's glue?

**Reader 3:** Not pleasant to think about...but Isn't that life?

**Reader 1:** We find our cup is seemingly filled with bitter experiences.

**Reader 2:** Your cup runneth over, surely...but not with things you want.

**Reader 3:** So, we drink, but we are dismayed at the taste.

**Reader 1:** Our Heavenly Father has wisdom to know what we need to grow, to mature, to become more like Him.

**Reader 3:** We don't always like the flavor.

**Reader 1:** Even Jesus asked that He not have to drink from this cup, if there was any other way to accomplish the goal.

**Reader 2:** But He so loved the world, that He gave His life...

**Reader 3:** Jesus drank the cup of God's judgment so that we would not have to.

**Reader 1:** That's how great His affections for us are.

**Reader 3:** He allows our cups to be filled with many things—many are sweet and delicately flavored.

**Reader 2:** Laughter and beauty and quiet moments with family and friends. Drink those deeply. Savor them.

**Reader 3:** But do not be afraid to drink from the cup of suffering.

**Reader 1:** Be strong. Be courageous.

**Reader 2:** When your cup is full of pain and sorrow and loss...

**Reader 3:** Drink deeply of them as well, knowing that God will take them and build you from the inside out.

**Reader 1:** And as you drink, look over the brim and see the grace in His eyes...

**Reader 3:** Let the flavor, sweet or bitter, fill you.

**Reader 2:** Close your eyes and think of what was in the cup Jesus drank.

**Reader 1:** Think of His sacrifice.

**All:** Drink...and remember.