

“Things of God: Sign”

A Lenten Reading

by
Paul Neil

What This Readers Theater explores the idea that we all carry signs about who we believe ourselves to be, and they're usually not very positive. But Jesus has written messages on our hearts reminding us that we are His children and we are loved.

Themes: Lent, Easter, Love, Identity, Self-Worth

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: Sign. Noun. A display, such as a lettered board, used to identify or advertise, or to post a command, warning, or direction.

Reader 2: Have you ever stopped to think about all the signs you've learned to recognize in your life?

Reader 3: The lady in a dress and the man in pants that mark which restroom is which.

Reader 1: The knife and fork that tell us we can find food at the next exit.

Reader 3: The yellow diamond with a bent arrow, warning of a curve ahead.

Reader 3: The flashing red hand that says it's not safe to cross the road.

Reader 1: The silhouette of a deer indicating that one might suddenly emerge onto the road.

Reader 2: There are at least a thousand more signs and symbols I could hold up and you would know precisely what they mean.

Reader 1: There are other signs we've been trained since childhood to recognize—less manufactured, more human.

Reader 3: Lips curved upward with a smile of approval.

Reader 2: A nose wrinkled in disgust.

Reader 3: Eyebrows raised in delight.

Reader 1: Shoulders slumped forward with weariness.

Reader 2: We read these signs just as readily as we could any painted or printed ones.

Reader 1: Strangers, friends, and loved ones...they tell us about themselves, willingly or unwillingly.

Reader 3: And we tell them about us.

Reader 2: We might as well be carrying our own personal picket signs, not in protest but in proclamation of who we believe ourselves to be.

Reader 1: And these signs? They aren't usually good.

Reader 2: The tragedy is that we have allowed others to letter them with broad thick strokes.

Reader 3: What does the sign you carry say?

Reader 1: I am a disappointment.

Reader 2: I will never be better.

Reader 3: I cannot change.

Reader 1: I am unlovable.

Reader 2: I am broken.

Reader 3: I do not play well with others.

Reader 1: I am not worth your time.

Reader 2: I am a waste of space.

All: I am a failure.

Pause

Reader 1: We hold them aloft for all to see, even though we sometimes forget we are carrying them.

Reader 3: But for a moment, lower your sign, and look at it closely.

Reader 2: Just behind the bold lettering others have written for you, do you see what it says?

Reader 1: You might need more light to see. It's written in red, and it has been obscured by layers and layers of labels applied by ourselves and others.

Reader 3: Can you read it? The words are written by the same hand that hung the stars.

Reader 2: It's a love letter—and yours reads differently from mine, but it was composed and penned by the same Savior.

Reader 1: Scrub away the graffiti that has kept you from seeing it. Read every word.

Reader 3: Some of it will be just between you and the Author...but I know a bit of what you will find in there. Words like these:

Reader 1: You are my child.

Reader 2: I created you.

Reader 3: I am healing you.

Reader 1: I am changing you.

Reader 2: I knit you together in your mother's womb.

Reader 3: *(slowly and clearly)* I love you.

Reader 2: Lift those words high.

Reader 1: Carry them for all to see.

Reader 3: After all, others need to know, too.

All: Jesus loves me, this I know.