

SEASONED WITH DRAMA

by Barbara T. Rowland



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A source of research of “What? Know Ye Not?” was the footnote for I Corinthians 6:19 entitled “The Work of the Holy Spirit in Christian Living” from *The Open Bible*, expanded edition (New King James Version). Copyright © 1983, 1985 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Produce the short dramas in this collection on the platform steps or to the side of the pulpit in the sanctuary. Use of one mike is adequate for most selections. No costumes are necessary and few props. Posters in "Freedom" and "A Word for Christmas" plus a table and three chairs in "Stewardship" and a few hand props in "Back to School" are required. One rehearsal early in the week and one in the sanctuary on Sunday should be sufficient. Have actors sit in the front row and get in place during song or prayer right before the drama. At the end, ask performers to hold two counts. One person should move the mike as they leave the playing area. Do not read the Scripture references. For choral speaking pieces, have the actors tap out the rhythm and mark beats on their scripts as they learn to read together.

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Redeem the Time

(New Year)

by BARBARA T. ROWLAND

This piece requires three strong voices. READER 2 is Center Stage with READER 1 on his right and READER 3 on his left. Good for performance on the Sunday closest to New Year's Day.

ALL: It's time!

READER 1: What time?

READER 3: Whose time?

READER 2: Time for a new year.

READER 1: Time for a fresh start.

READER 3: Time to make more time.

ALL: Clocks — ticking

Time — passing

Life — rushing

STOP!

READER 1: Man has trouble with time.

READER 3: Man was made for eternity.

ALL: What's the message?

What's the medium?

Why the cramming?

Why the crowding?

GUILT!

READER 1: Mark it down.

READER 3: Make it count.

READER 2: Organize.

READER 1: Galvanize.

READER 3: Rush it faster.

READER 2: Push it harder.

READER 1: Hurry.

READER 3: Worry.

ALL: STOP!

READER 2: Why the push?

1 **READER 1: Why the struggle?**
 2 **READER 3: Why the rush?**
 3 **READER 2: What's the trouble?**
 4 **ALL: TIME!**
 5 **READER 1: See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools,**
 6 **but as wise, redeeming the time. (Ephesians 5:15-16)**
 7 **READER 3: Walk in wisdom toward them that are without,**
 8 **redeeming the time. (Colossians 4:5)**
 9 **ALL: Redeem — the time.**
 10 **Examine — the time.**
 11 **Give God — the time.**
 12 **READER 2: Jesus had time for the woman at the well.**
 13 **READER 1: Jesus had time to admire the lilies of the field.**
 14 **READER 3: Jesus had time to spend a night in prayer.**
 15 **ALL: It's time.**
 16 **Whose time?**
 17 **God's time.**
 18 **READER 2: Why do we go so fast?**
 19 **READER 1: Why do we think the more we do the more**
 20 **important we are?**
 21 **READER 3: Did God put a label marked "EXPRESS" on us?**
 22 **Or did we?**
 23 **ALL: It's time.**
 24 **Time to care.**
 25 **Time to choose.**
 26 **Time to commit.**
 27 **Redeem — the time.**
 28 *(Stronger as repeat)* **REDEEM — THE TIME.**
 29 **REDEEM — THE TIME.**
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The Call of the Cross

(Lent)

by BARBARA T. ROWLAND

This arrangement is for six voices. The readers are placed on steps where all can be seen. Their bodies form a cross with four in a vertical line and two extended at each side (lined up with the second from the top person in the vertical line). Good for performance at any time during Lent — especially appropriate for a Good Friday service.

READER 1: Jesus said to them all,

ALL: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

READER 2: If any man will come after me,

READER 3: Let him deny himself,

READER 4: And take up his cross daily

READER 5: And follow me.

ALL: (Repeat — strong voice) Take up his cross daily And follow me.

READER 6: The cross

READER 1: Instrument of death

READER 2: The cross

READER 3: Symbol of the Christian gospel Jesus died for our sins.

READER 4: The cross

READER 3: Symbol of a disciple's commitment Even — to death.

ALL: "But God forbid that I should glory, Save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ By whom the world is crucified unto me, And I — unto the world." (Galatians 6:14)

READER 6: The cross represents my death to the old life.

READER 1: The cross represents payment to a just God for my sins.

1 **READER 2: The cross represents Jesus' willingness to suffer**
2 **for my forgiveness.**
3 **ALL: The call of the cross**
4 **READER 3: — is the call to respond to Christ's love,**
5 **READER 4: — is the call to recognize God's power to save**
6 **us from sin.**
7 **READER 5: — is the call to Christian discipleship.**
8 **ALL: The call of the cross**
9 **READER 6: — is the call to learn from the Bible,**
10 **READER 1: — is the call to prayer,**
11 **READER 2: — is the call to change,**
12 **READER 3: — is the call to love others.**
13 **READER 4: "If any man would come after me**
14 **READER 5: Let him deny himself**
15 **READERS 3, 4, 5, 6: And take up his cross daily**
16 **ALL: And follow me!"**
17 *(Loud)* **The call — of the cross.**
18 *(Medium)* **The call — of the cross.**
19 *(Soft)* **The call — of the cross.**
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What Is a Mother?

(Mother's Day)

by BARBARA T. ROWLAND

This is a dramatic reading arranged for five voices: two women, one teenage male and two teenage females. Use of levels such as steps or stools is suggested. Place the women on same level, young man between them and slightly below, the two girls on either side of him and below, forming a triangle. This reading lends a special touch to a Mother's Day service.

WOMEN 1 & 2: It's Mother's Day!

SON: Again? Already?

GIRL 1: I thought we did that not long ago!

GIRL 2: That was an Easter card you got Mom!

WOMEN 1 & 2: It's Mother's Day!

Who will remember?

Who will say —

Happy Mother's Day!

GIRL 1: When is Daughter's Day?

SON: Or Son's Day?

GIRL 2: Card companies are working on it!

GIRL 1: Mothers can be a bother —

GIRL 2: Where would you be without one?

SON: We wouldn't *be*!

WOMEN 1 & 2: Mothering is a hard job —

SON: No paid vacations —

GIRL 1: No sick leave —

GIRL 2: No free evenings or weekends!

ALL: Mothering *is* a hard job.

WOMEN 1 & 2: It's Mother's Day!

WOMAN 1: We have living mothers —

WOMAN 2: And mothers who live in memory.

WOMEN 1 & 2: We honor the women

Who gave us birth.

- 1 SON: Or — adopted us
- 2 GIRL 1: Or — took care of us
- 3 GIRL 2: — Or — married our dad.
- 4 WOMAN 1: The Bible says —
- 5 WOMEN 1 & 2: Honor your father and your mother.
- 6 WOMAN 2: And what is a mother?
- 7 GIRL 1: (*Shrug*) She's a girl — like me — who grew up —
- 8 And had a baby.
- 9 GIRL 2: Or adopted one.
- 10 SON: Or married a man with children.
- 11 WOMEN 1 & 2: She is a human being — with needs.
- 12 GIRL 1: She gives comfort and love.
- 13 WOMAN 1: She needs comfort and love.
- 14 SON: She gives support and encouragement.
- 15 WOMAN 2: She needs support and encouragement.
- 16 GIRL 2: She gives a listening ear and a hug.
- 17 WOMAN 1: She needs a listening ear and a hug.
- 18 WOMEN 1 & 2: She is a human being — with faults.
- 19 WOMAN 2: Eve, the first mother, was no saint.
- 20 SON: There are mothers who play favorites with their
- 21 children.
- 22 WOMAN 2: As did Rebekah, mother of Old Testament Jacob
- 23 and Esau. She helped Jacob deceive his father.
- 24 GIRL 1: There are pushy mothers who promote their children.
- 25 WOMAN 1: As was the mother of disciples James and John.
- 26 She asked Jesus if her sons could have thrones beside his!
- 27 GIRL 2: (*Shakes head.*) Some things never change.
- 28 WOMEN 1 & 2: Mothers are human beings — not perfect.
- 29 SON, GIRLS 1 & 2: But neither are their children — perfect!
- 30 ALL: Christ died for all of us —
- 31 WOMEN 1 & 2: Including mothers —
- 32 SON: And their sons —
- 33 GIRLS 1 & 2: And daughters.
- 34 WOMEN 1 & 2: God's spirit in Christian mothers
- 35 WOMAN 1: Gives strength and stability,

- 1 **WOMAN 2: Patience and perseverance**
- 2 **WOMEN 1 & 2: To love a labor-intensive job!**
- 3 **SON, GIRLS 1 & 2: Honor your father and your *mother*!**
- 4 **ALL: It's Mother's Day!**
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What? Know Ye Not?

(Pentecost)

by BARBARA T. ROWLAND

This is a choral speaking piece for three readers. The theme is of God's Spirit dwelling in humanity, making it appropriate for Pentecost Sunday presentation.

READER 2: What? Know ye not?

READER 1: What? Know ye not?

READER 3: What? Know ye not?

**ALL: What? Know ye not that your body is the temple
of the Holy Ghost which is in you
which ye have of God
and ye are not your own? (I Corinthians 6:19)**

**READER 2: Do you not know that your body is a temple of
the Holy Spirit**

READER 1: Who is in you, whom you have received from God?

READER 3: You are not your own. (I Corinthians 6:19 NIV)

READER 2: The Holy Spirit lives in believers —

**READER 1: I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may
strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your
inner being. (Ephesians 3:16 NIV)**

READER 2: The Holy Spirit fills believers —

READER 3: Be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18 NIV)

READER 2: The Holy Spirit sanctifies believers —

**READER 1: God chose you to be saved through the
sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the
truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV)**

READER 2: The Holy Spirit produces fruit in the believer —

**READER 3: But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness
and self-control. (Galatians 5:22 NIV)**

READER 2: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to believers —

READER 1: But each man has his own gift from God; one has

- 1 **this gift, another has that.** (I Corinthians 7:7 NIV)
- 2 **READER 2: The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in**
 3 **my name, will teach you all things and will remind you**
 4 **of everything I have said to you.** (John 14:26 NIV)
- 5 **ALL: What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the**
 6 **Holy Ghost which is in you?** (I Corinthians 6:19)
 7 **Your body — is a temple — of the Holy Spirit — who is in**
 8 **you —**
 9 **whom you have received from God** (I Corinthians 6:19 NIV)
 10 *(Softer)* **Whom you have received from God.**
 11 *(Softer)* **Whom you have received from God.**
- 12 **READER 2: We are the riverbeds —**
 13 **READERS 1, 2, 3: The Spirit — is the river.**
 14 **READER 2: A riverbed is nothing —**
 15 **READERS 1, 2, 3: Without the river.**
 16 **READER 2: But the river cannot flow —**
 17 **READERS 1, 2, 3: Without the riverbed.**
 18 **READER 2: We are mirrors —**
 19 **READERS 1, 2, 3: To reflect his character and glory.**
 20 **READER 2: A mirror is empty —**
 21 **READERS 1, 2, 3: If not in a position to reflect.**
 22 **ALL: We are nothing.**
 23 **Yet filled with the Holy Spirit.**
 24 **We are pipelines**
 25 **For God's love to flow to earth.**
 26 **READER 2: What? Know ye not?**
 27 **READER 1: What? Know ye not that your body is a temple?**
 28 **READER 3: A temple for the Holy Ghost which is in you.**
 29 **READER 2: Which ye have of God, and ye are not your own.**
 30 **ALL: For ye are bought with a price.**
 31 **Therefore, glorify God in your body**
 32 **And in your spirit**
 33 **Which are God's.** (I Corinthians 6:19-20)
 34 **Your body — a temple — for the Spirit.**
 35 **Your body — a temple — for the Spirit.**

Freedom

(Fourth of July)

by BARBARA T. ROWLAND

This is a focus piece for a patriotic worship service. Four children speak. Youngest holds poster with the word "Freedom" printed on it. May have red-white-blue coloring around edges. Speakers 3 and 4 are upper elementary age. 1 and 2 are younger. May be performed on the Sunday closest to the Fourth of July.

CHILD 1: See the poster I made?

CHILD 2: What'd ya do that for?

CHILD 3: (*Reads poster.*) Freedom.

CHILD 4: You don't even know what that means!

CHILD 1: You bet I do! It's what July 4th is about.

CHILD 2: July 4th? Oh yeah — that's next week! (*Tomorrow, today, etc.*)

CHILD 3: July 4th's about fried chicken and fireworks and family reunions!

CHILD 4: And water skiing and watermelon and ice cream and ice-cold cokes —

CHILD 1: (*With feeling*) No! July 4th is about America being a free country!

CHILD 2: Free from what?

CHILD 3: From some other country — England, I think — ruling us.

CHILD 4: That's right. That's why we can choose our congressmen — our church —

CHILD 3: Our church — Hey! Get this. *Freedom* is what our church is about, too!

CHILD 1: Huh? I don't get it.

CHILD 2: Me neither.

CHILD 3: We learned in Sunday School that because Jesus died, we are *free* from paying for our sins.

CHILD 4: Yeah! He paid the price for our sins on the cross.

1 CHILD 2: When something is *free*, you can just take it —
2 somebody already paid for it.

3 CHILD 3: Right! So, Jesus Christ means *freedom* for
4 Christians.

5 CHILD 1: My poster's for America *and* for Christianity!

6 ALL: All right! (*Slap hands.*)

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A Car at Any Cost

(Stewardship Sunday)

by BARBARA T. ROWLAND and BLAKE SPRAGGINS

Father, mother and teenage son or daughter sit around table as if they have just finished dinner. Parents sit at ends and the teenager sits in the middle. Or they may be standing around one mike with the teenager in the center. This sketch on honesty and giving is suitable for performance on Stewardship Sunday.

TEEN: You know, Dad, I'm about to turn sixteen. Lots of kids get a car to drive at that age. Certainly a waste of a driver's license not to have anything to drive.

DAD: I know. Your mom and I have talked about that already.

TEEN: *(Surprised)* You have?

MOM: *(Parents look self-satisfied.)* We've looked at where our money goes and found ways to save so we can make car payments.

DAD: *(Pulls paper from pocket.)* Here are some notes I made. Let's see. We could rig our cable television so we don't have to pay for it.

TEEN: But that's dishonest!

MOM: That's such a big company and everyone pays into it. Our little payment won't be missed.

TEEN: But, Mom!

MOM: Hush and listen. Here's another thing your dad and I decided. We'll make our weekly long-distance phone calls to our parents from the office. Let the company pay the bill. It'll never be noticed.

TEEN: You can't be serious!

DAD: *(Eagerly)* And here's something else. We all three eat lunch out and that adds up. So, Mom and I will charge most of our lunches to our company cards. Say we talked business, you know. A little padding won't hurt. You try to

- 1 eat out with friends who usually have cash. Pretend
2 you're short until you can cash a check — let them pick
3 up the tab and forget it.
- 4 TEEN: Dad! I can't —
- 5 MOM: When I run out of things in the pantry, I'll just borrow
6 from the neighbors rather than run to the store so often.
- 7 TEEN: Isn't that taking advantage of your friends?
- 8 MOM: What are friends for?
- 9 DAD: Speaking of friends, Dr. Smith in our church can
10 answer our medical questions on the church steps or at
11 a Sunday school party. That'll save on office calls.
- 12 MOM: I have another idea that will save on clothes for me.
13 I'm going to need a party dress for some special events
14 that are coming up. I'll select a dress at a store where I
15 have a charge account, wear it and return the dress the
16 next day saying I changed my mind. Let the store furnish
17 my special occasion clothes at no cost to me!
- 18 TEEN: You're crazy, Mom! You can't do that!
- 19 DAD: Sure she can. You want a car, don't you? Speaking of
20 cars, remember that fender bender I had? Well, I've
21 decided my neck hurts. Probably get some insurance
22 money for my whiplash. More income.
- 23 TEEN: But my driver's ed teacher said false claims drive up
24 everyone's premiums.
- 25 MOM: One whiplash won't make any difference. Another
26 thing, to save on Christmas, we're not going to Grandpa
27 and Grandma's house this year.
- 28 TEEN: We've always gone to Grandma's for Christmas!
- 29 DAD: It's time for a change. They can come here. Now, this
30 is my best idea — I have a friend who can fix the meter
31 so our neighbor pays for our utilities.
- 32 TEEN: Dad! I can't believe you!
- 33 MOM: He won't notice. He has lots of money. Just think —
34 with all these savings, we'll be able to make payments
35 on a car for you.

1 **DAD:** *(Triumphantly)* You'll be just like the most affluent
2 sixteen-year-olds at school!

3 **TEEN:** I'm not sure I *want* a car if it's gonna take —

4 **MOM:** Don't be silly. Our household will keep right on
5 functioning, even if a lot of other people take care of our
6 bills.

7 **DAD:** That's how we do it at church. We seldom give money,
8 but we have all the advantages — Sunday school, good
9 fellowship, fine preaching, clean facilities, and a strong
10 youth program. Other members will always take care of
11 the church. It'll always be there for us.

12 **TEEN:** But what if everyone in the church did that?

13 **MOM:** Oh, that will never happen. The church has some Big
14 Givers. It'll keep going. It'll be there for us.

15 **DAD:** Now, about the kind of car — I was thinking — *(TEEN*
16 *looks at DAD, stunned. Blackout if using lights.)*

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Back to School

(New School Year)

by BARBARA T. ROWLAND and BLAKE SPRAGGINS

In this drama, the congregation sees the varied experiences of a mom returning to college, a high school student, a college-bound freshman, a teacher, and two elementary school students (brother and sister) on their first day of school. Ideal for performance in August on the Sunday before school starts.

The characters are arranged in three groups with a microphone for each group:

1. DAVE, a high school student, and his MOTHER, who is returning to college after a long absence. She carries a backpack and wears huge earrings and a wild jacket or whatever is trendy.

2. JOHN, a first-year college student, his DAD and his MOM, who is a teacher. Props needed: a map for JOHN's DAD, a book bag and a paper bag with a large jar of vitamins inside for JOHN's MOM.

3. DANA, a first-grader, and BUD, a third-grader. Optional props: school supplies, lunches, etc.

Each group speaks three different times. The transition of the dialog from one group to the next should be smooth and well-timed, continuing without a pause from group to group. Characters speak up strongly on cue when their portion begins and freeze at the end of their segment.

MOTHER: (*Wears huge earrings and wild jacket — or whatever is trendy.*) **Dave! Let's go!**

DAVE: (*Skeptical look*) **Mom, are you — ready to go?**

MOTHER: **Yes. Don't I look like I'll fit in on the college campus?**

DAVE: (*Groans.*) **You're not leaving the house like that, are you?**

- 1 **MOTHER:** The clerk said this is what the college girls wear.
2 Even if I am the mother of a high school senior, I'm going
3 back to school and I want to fit in!
- 4 **DAVE:** *(Decides to try kindness.)* But, Mom, I don't think it's
5 really *you*. Know what I mean?
- 6 **MOTHER:** I don't have time to change if you're dropping me
7 off. And I want to be there early — *(Looks at watch.)*
- 8 **DAVE:** Don't worry. It takes me exactly six minutes and
9 thirty-seven seconds to get to school. Dropping you off
10 will add — *(DAVE and MOTHER freeze as he calculates. DAD,*
11 *who studies a map, and JOHN begin next segment.)*
- 12 **DAD:** Got everything in the car now, John?
- 13 **JOHN:** The typewriter was the last thing. There isn't room to
14 take another tennis ball to college in that car!
- 15 **DAD:** Think I've found a shortcut. *(Points to map.)* Turn here
16 on this farm-to-market road *(MOM enters with a book bag*
17 *and a paper bag)* and then turn onto this access road and
18 immediately turn on this blue road —
- 19 **JOHN:** *(Frowning at map as DAD points)* Dad, that's a river.
- 20 **DAD:** *(Looks closer.)* Oh?
- 21 **MOM:** Don't listen to him. Stay on the interstate. It'll be
22 safer.
- 23 **JOHN:** All right.
- 24 **MOM:** And remember to drive the speed limit and wear your
25 seat belt.
- 26 **JOHN:** *(Says last of above line with her.)* Wear your seat belt. I
27 know, Mom.
- 28 **DAD:** Don't forget to check your oil.
- 29 **MOM:** Now, this bag has something in it that I want you to
30 promise you'll take every day. *(Lifts huge jar of vitamins out*
31 *of paper bag.)* Vitamins!
- 32 **JOHN:** OK, Mom. *(Takes bag.)*
- 33 **MOM:** *(Looks at watch.)* I don't have much time. Need to work
34 on my bulletin board before my second-graders arrive.
- 35 **DAD:** You need to get going, John. You've got a ways to go to

- 1 **school this year!** (*JOHN grins and nods.*)
- 2 **MOM:** **This year it doesn't seem right for school to start. This**
- 3 **fall you'll be gone —** (*GROUP 2 freezes and GROUP 3 speaks*
- 4 *immediately.*)
- 5 **DANA:** **Bud, why did Mommy take our picture 'fore we left**
- 6 **for the bus stop?**
- 7 **BUD:** **'Cause it's your first day of school.**
- 8 **DANA:** **I know that — but, so?**
- 9 **BUD:** **Grown-ups think it's a big deal.**
- 10 **DANA:** **I might not stay if I don't like it.**
- 11 **BUD:** (*Laughs.*) **Oh yes you will! You're in it for the rest of your**
- 12 **life.**
- 13 **DANA:** **Well, is it fun?**
- 14 **BUD:** **Sometimes. This year I get to write with a pen. Older**
- 15 **kids do that. You'll have fun with your crayons and you**
- 16 **get to play outside more. But the most important thing**
- 17 **you'll do is learn to read.**
- 18 **DANA:** **Read? Me?** (*BUD and DANA freeze. GROUP 1 speaks.*)
- 19 **DAVE:** **— about fifty-six seconds, the way I figure it.**
- 20 **MOTHER:** (*Removing jacket and earrings*) **Is this better?**
- 21 **DAVE:** (*Grins.*) **Sure thing!**
- 22 **MOTHER:** **Do I have everything?** (*Looks in backpack.*) **Six**
- 23 **sharp pencils, five pens, ten notebooks —**
- 24 **DAVE:** **I don't see why you're going through this school thing**
- 25 **anyway. I've even thought of quitting.** (*MOTHER looks*
- 26 *shocked and they freeze. GROUP 2 enters in.*)
- 27 **MOM:** **What if you get sick?**
- 28 **JOHN:** **I think the school has an infirmary, Mom.**
- 29 **DAD:** **He'll manage his life all right. Good head on his**
- 30 **shoulders.** (*GROUP 2 freezes. GROUP 3 speaks.*)
- 31 **DANA:** **Reading will be too hard! I can't do that.**
- 32 **BUD:** **You don't do it all at once the first day. Sometimes it**
- 33 **is hard. But I remember what fun it was when I could**
- 34 **read about Alfred Hitchcock and the three investigators**
- 35 **all by myself. Besides, older people think it's important**

1 to read. Mom, Dad, the President —

2 **DANA:** Jesus? (*GROUP 3 freezes and GROUP 1 picks up.*)

3 **MOTHER:** Please don't even think of quitting school. God

4 gave us minds to develop and use. Remember the parable

5 about the talents? The man who buried his lost it.

6 **DAVE:** I remember. If you don't use it, you lose it. Right?

7 **MOTHER:** Right. And there are lots of things I'd rather lose

8 than my mind!

9 **DAVE:** Like those earrings you had on? — Come on, college

10 girl. (*DAVE and MOTHER freeze. GROUP 2 speaks.*)

11 **JOHN:** Look, you two gave me a good foundation.

12 **MOM:** "Train up a child in the way he should go." (Proverbs

13 22:6) That's what we tried to do, isn't it?

14 **DAD:** Yes. We gave him roots and now he needs to try his

15 wings. (*GROUP 2 freezes and GROUP 3 speaks.*)

16 **BUD:** Sure, Jesus wants you to learn to read. Remember that

17 Bible story about Jesus asking questions at the temple?

18 Jesus thinks learning is important.

19 **DANA:** Then I'll learn! (*All characters face front for ending.*)

20 **MOTHER:** A mind to develop.

21 **JOHN:** A world to explore.

22 **BUD:** An example to follow.

23 **ALL:** "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman

24 that needeth not to be ashamed." (2 Timothy 2:15)

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Working It Out

(Labor Day)

by BARBARA T. ROWLAND and BLAKE SPRAGGINS

You may ask your music minister or youth minister to play the part of SPEAKER 1. He or she comes to the mike to give tribute to Labor Day. His or her manner is very serious, almost oratorical. Two additional players are needed. Perform this drama on the Sunday closest to Labor Day, and the congregation will be lulled into thinking it is a long, dry speech about work.

SPEAKER 1: This holiday weekend we celebrate a tradition that was begun in 1882 — Labor Day. It is recognition of *work* — which was sanctioned by God Almighty in the beginning when he said, “Six days shalt thou labor.” Work is the noblest thing man can do. The Bible is filled with examples of labor. There is Paul, the tentmaker; David, the shepherd; James the fisherman. These men were known by their jobs. Work is the most significant thing in a person’s life. Every day ought to be Labor Day! Labor is — *(Gains momentum as he progresses. Is interrupted by SPEAKER 2. SPEAKER 2 rises quickly from front row and rushes to Stage Left of SPEAKER 1, who looks shocked.)*

SPEAKER 2: Wait a minute! I can’t sit here and listen to this any longer. You’ve already gone too far! You’ve only said one thing I agree is true.

SPEAKER 1: *(Stunned by SPEAKER 2’s outburst.)* Wh-what is that?

SPEAKER 2: That every day should be Labor Day. ‘Cause then every day would be a holiday. And I wouldn’t have to go to work! Ha!

SPEAKER 1: *(Offended)* I don’t like your interruption of my tribute to labor. I would appreciate it if you —

SPEAKER 2: Just asking for equal time. You’re lopsided in your view, and the people deserve to hear the other side.

1 **Here is what I think about labor: I hate it!** (*SPEAKER 1*
 2 *steps aside and shrugs at congregation. SPEAKER 2 has the*
 3 *mike.*) **Seems to me you should be able to get by with as**
 4 **little work as possible. God gave us life to enjoy. How**
 5 **can you do that when you're working? You must admit**
 6 **a job interferes with church activities. And look what**
 7 **work gives you — blisters, headaches, backaches, ulcers,**
 8 **and heart attacks. Now don't get me wrong. I'm not a**
 9 **freeloader. I'll work enough to put food on the table, but**
 10 **I resent paying tribute to it!**

11 **SPEAKER 1:** (*Steps beside him again.*) **I cannot understand**
 12 **your attitude. It's positively un-American and un-**
 13 **Christian. Don't you want the American Dream?**

14 **SPEAKER 2:** **My dream is to be independently wealthy —**
 15 **then I won't have to work!**

16 **SPEAKER 1:** (*Disgusted*) **What kind of an attitude is —** (*On*
 17 *last line, SPEAKER 3 rushes forward from front row and steps*
 18 *between SPEAKERS 1 and 2. They step back in surprise, and*
 19 *he is center in front of mike.*)

20 **SPEAKER 3:** **Wait! Both of you, wait! Now I can't keep quiet**
 21 **any longer. You're both way off base. Work is not**
 22 **something just to rush through so we can live. Neither**
 23 **is it something to live for. You've both forgotten our first**
 24 **job as Christians. It's to be Christ's ministers on earth.**
 25 **We fulfill that through *all* of our life — not just parts of**
 26 **it. Our jobs are important.** (*Looks at SPEAKER 1 who nods*
 27 *affirmatively.*) **I'm sure Christ was a good carpenter. But**
 28 **that's not everything.** (*SPEAKER 2 nods.*) **Christ's first**
 29 **significant work on earth was turning water into wine**
 30 **at a wedding feast. We are to be ministers in our social**
 31 **life, at home, at church as well as at our work.**

32 **SPEAKER 1:** **Perhaps that's so, but work is *most* important.**

33 **SPEAKER 2:** **Work is *least* important.**

34 **SPEAKER 3:** **Work is a part of the whole.**

35 **SPEAKER 1:** **We *are* our work. Work is significant. We pay**



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