



Written by  
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## “Ask, And It Shall Be Given” *A Choral Reading of Matthew 7*

**Scripture:** Matthew 7: 7-11

**Dramatic Category:** Choral Reading

### What is “Choral Reading”?

Choral Reading is “literature in vocal dimension,” which means that multiple voices interpret literature, thus giving it dimension that a single voice-oral interpretation cannot give.

### NOTE:

Please consult the “Choral Reading Guidelines” that follow this reading. There, you will find helpful hints to maximize this beautiful art form that uses the syncopated reading of scripture to communicate the truth of God’s Word.

**Topic:** Ask the Lord to intervene in your life

**Performance Time:** 1 minute

**Number of Readers:** 6 readers (*3 men (M), 2 females (F), and 1 male child (Mc)*)

### Suggested Configuration:

4 (M)      5 (M)      6 (M)  
2 (F)      3 (F)  
1 (Mc)

**Background Music:** An instrumental version of "Seek Ye First."

**Sound Needs:** Six standing microphones. The readers must have their hands free.

**Lighting Notes:** Even light across the group

**Props:**

Small black notebooks in which readers keep their scripts.

*(The notebooks are held waist-high, in the left hand, leaving the right hand free for gestures that “physicalize” the meaning of the words.)*

**Costume Suggestions:** Black and white, with the addition of one other color, shared by all readers

**Music:** Begin the background music while the readers get into place.

**The Script:**

**2, 3:** Ask,

**4, 5, 6:** And it will be given to you;

**2, 3:** Seek,

**4, 5, 6:** and you will find;

**2, 3:** Knock,

**4, 5, 6:** And it will be opened to you.

**2, 3:** For everyone who asks,

**4, 5, 6:** Receives,

**2, 3:** And he who seeks,

**4, 5, 6:** Finds,

**2, 3:** And to him who knocks,

**4, 5, 6:** It will be opened.

**2, 3:** Which of you,

**1:** When his son asks for a bread,

**4, 5, 6:** Will give him a stone?

**2, 3:** Or

**1:** if he asks for a fish,

**4, 5, 6: Will give him a snake?**

**2, 3: If you then,**

**4, 5, 6: Though you are evil,**

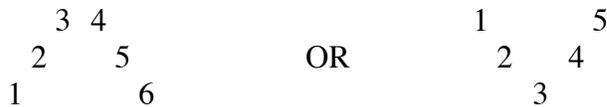
**1: Know how to give good gifts to your children,  
How much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts**

**All: To those who ask Him.**

**The End**

## Choral Reading Guidelines

1. Select literature that is **lyrical** such as: songs, poems, stories with repetitious dialogue, odes, or ballads.
2. Analyze the literature to determine the **theme**. Divide it into phrases that deserve more emphatic treatment, such as a single voice for effect or all voices for effect.
3. Assign each member of the choral reading team a **number**.
4. **Divide the literature up by phrases** and decide which number or numbers will read which lines.
5. Create **“phonal”** (dominant/deeper voices) and **“anti-phonal”** (softer/higher voices) effects by assigning lines to voices that come from opposite places on the team. These voices will create the same relationship as “melody” has with “harmony” in music. This keeps the audience entertained.
6. **Choreograph** the arrangement of the readers, for example:



7. Assign **gestures** to various members of the team to emphasize the lines they will read.
8. **Costume** the readers for effect if it is appropriate. Generally, readers wear black and white. It is very effective to dress the ladies in floor-length black skirts and white blouses, and the men in black slacks, white shirts, and a colored tie. Sometimes, the addition of one other color is appropriate as long as all readers use the same additional color. This uniform effect helps tie the visual image together to create the illusion of this being “one” reading with multiple voices.
9. **Props** are used sparingly if it would add to the effect of the reading. The only constant prop used is the small black notebook in which each reader keeps his/her script. It is held at waist-height in the left hand, leaving the right hand free for gestures.
10. **Rehearse** the reading over and over so that the readers are **syncopated** and there is no interruption or hesitation in the **vocal unison**.