



**Props:**

3 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:**

**All: Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

**1: Praise the Lord, O my soul,**

**3: and forget not all his benefits,**

**2: who forgives all your sins,  
and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,  
who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's**

**3: The Lord works righteousness**

**1: and justice for all the oppressed.**

**All: The Lord is compassionate and gracious**

**3: slow to anger,**

**1: abounding in love.**

**2: He does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.**

**3: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,**

**1: So great is his love for those who fear him;**

**2: as far as the east is from the west,**

**3, 1: so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

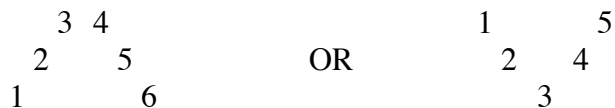
**2:** as a father has compassion on his children,  
**3, 1:** so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;  
**1:** But from everlasting to everlasting  
**2:** the Lord's love is with those who fear him,  
**3:** And his righteousness with their children's children--  
**All:** Praise the Lord,  
**1:** you his angels,  
**3:** you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.  
**All:** Praise the Lord,  
**2:** all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.  
**All:** Praise the Lord, all his works  
**2:** Everywhere in his dominion.  
**All:** Praise the Lord, O my soul.

**Music:** *REPRISE "Think About His Love" Consider having the congregation join in.*

**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**.