



Written by
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“The Wisdom of The Spirit” A Choral Reading of 1Corinthians 2

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2: 7-12

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: Contrasting the wisdom of the world with the wisdom of God.

Performance Time: 2 minutes

Number of Readers: 5 readers (2 men (M), 3 women (F))

Suggested Configuration:

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

Background Music:

“Peace Give I To Thee” played softly in the background, or some other hymn or chorus whose theme is having a spiritual quality, not understood by the world.

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

Lighting Notes: Even light across the group of readers

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:

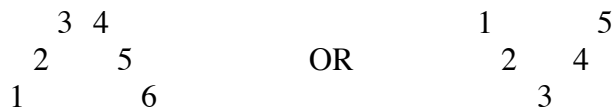
- 3: In 1st. Corinthians 2:7-17, the apostle Paul contrasts the wisdom of this world with the wisdom that we Christians are given from God. It is a wisdom that the world cannot understand.**
- 1: We speak of God’s secret wisdom,**
- 5: a wisdom that has been hidden
and that God destined for our glory before time began.**
- 2: None of the rulers of the age understood it,**
- 4: for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**
- 3: So, Paul writes these words:**
- 1: No eye has seen,**
- 2: no ear has heard,**
- 4: no mind has conceived**
- 5: what God has prepared for those who love him.**
- 3: But, God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.
The spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him?**
- 2: In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**
- 4: We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,
that we may understand what God has freely given us.**

- 3: This is what we speak,**
- 1: not in words taught us by human wisdom,**
- 5: but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths
in spiritual words.**
- 2: The man without the Spirit
does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God,
for they are foolishness to him,
and he cannot understand them,
because they are spiritually discerned.**
- 4: The spiritual man makes judgments about all things,
but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:**
- 3: For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?**
- All: But we have the mind of Christ.**

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**.