PONDERABLES

By Mark Reed

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy this script in any way or perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Call the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information.

On all programs and advertising the author's name must appear as well as this notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co."

PUBLISHED BY
ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY INC.

© 1996 by Eldridge Publishing Company

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://95church.com/ponderables

PONDERABLES

Parables come to modern life in PONDERABLES, a collection of seven skits for church teens. With a special blend of illumination and humor, each skit, both entertains and prompts discussion. Very easy to stage with minimal props. The cast size range from 2 to 7 players. They can be performed by either teens or adults.

Length: 4-10 minutes each.

CONTENTS

CAN YOU HEAR IT? *(3 M, 1 F)*	Listening to God's Word 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4
NAKED I WILL RETURN *(2 M)*	Entering God's Kingdom Job 1:21; Luke 9:57-62
THE PIT *(3 M, 1 F, 3 Flex)*	Faith/Spiritual Blindness Matthew 15:14
SOILED AGAIN *(1 M, 6 Flex)*	Receiving God's Word Matthew 13:1-23
SUMMONED *(3 M, 2 F, 1 Flex)*	Witnessing/Judgment Day Revelation 20:11-15
TAKE A LETTER *(2 M)*	Earthly Riches Luke 12:15-21
TONGUE-TRIED *(4 M, 1 F)*	Taming the Tongue James 3:7-8

CAN YOU HEAR IT?

TOPIC: Listening to God's word. II Timothy 3:16-4:4

Cast of Characters
(3 M, 1 F)

H.B.
A very confident edition of the Holy Bible. (male)
TED
A frustrated young man.
JASON
Ted's friend.
S.A.S.Q.
(SELFISH ANSWERS TO SELFISH QUESTIONS) Female book with no conscience.

Costumes:
H.B.'s costume—a poster board made to look like a book cover and labeled "H.B." or "Word."
S.A.S.Q.'s costume—a similar poster board with more color and sparkle, labeled "S.A.S.Q."
Setting: Ted's house.

(AT RISE: H.B. sits UCS twiddling his thumbs, sighing, making bored noises. He perks as shouting is heard off SR.)

TED: *(Off SR, shouting.)* Me? You're the one who won't listen to reason. You're the one running away from your problems. Yeah, they're half my problems and half yours. *(Entering SR, carrying books)* Go ahead. Walk away. Just remember, I'm the one who stayed. Have a nice day. *(Throws books down. Mutters.)* You'll be back. I hope. *(Paces a few steps, cooling off.)* Now what? *(Sits and buries HIS face in his hands.)*
H.B.: Ted? You need help, Ted?
TED: *(Ignores H.B. Looks upward.)* I need help, God.
H.B.: You're going to the right person. "Cast your cares on the Lord, for he cares for you."
TED: *(Still praying without listening to H.B.)* You're the only one who can help me.
H.B.: *(Proud)* That's right, Ted. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in..."
TED: *(Rises. Cuts HIM off. TED doesn't see or hear him.)* I feel so confused. I know I love Angela, but we're so different. I need you to teach me to understand her, to get along with her.
H.B.: *(Steps around to HIS front.)* "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light..."
TED: *(Turns and steps away.)* Why does everything have to happen at once? Argue with

Licensed for copies and performance to original purchaser only.

Angela at school. Fight with Dad at home. Hate my step-mom. Fail geometry. What am I gonna do? *(Stops, looks up.)* You're the only one who understands.

H.B.: Well, Ted, you need some solid principles to answer those questions. I happen to have a few ...

TED: God, I need some answers.

H.B.: Like I said. You've come to the right place. If you'll just take a look at these verses...

TED: I've been asking you every day. Why don't you answer me?

H.B.: Hello!

(H.B. waves his hands before TED'S eyes, but Ted never notices him.)

TED: I can't handle this alone. You gotta show me the way.

(H.B. turns TED'S head to meet his own face, but Ted looks past him.)

H.B.: Yo, Teddy! I'm here!

TED: Give me a sign.

H.B.: What am I? A shelf ornament?

TED: Show me your way.

H.B.: *(Whistles.)* Are you deaf or what? "Behold He stands at the door and knocks." *(KNOCK at the door. TED answers.)* Not that door.

(JASON and his book S.A.S.Q. enter.)

TED: Jason, what's up?

JASON: I just saw Angela. She's pretty upset. What happened?

S.A.S.Q.: *(Slinking over to H.B.)* Hi, big boy.

H.B.: What are you doing here?

S.A.S.Q.: Just trying to help.

TED: Jas, I don't know what to do. We just keep fighting, you know. I keep praying about it, but nothing changes.

JASON: I think she feels like you're really stressed, and you're taking it out on her.

TED: What am I supposed to do? My dad's on my back all the time. My step-mom is a psycho. They're driving me nuts.

S.A.S.Q.: *(Moves toward TED.)* Poor Ted.

H.B.: Stay away from him.

S.A.S.Q.: Why? You're not helping him much. Maybe I can.

JASON: I brought you something that's helped me a lot.

TED: Not another book.

H.B.: Don't listen to him.

JASON: It's not just a book. *(Brings S.A.S.Q. over to HIM.)* It's a commentary on life. I've read it twice and I keep it with me all the time. It's really gotten me through a lot.

TED: *(Looking HER over.)* It looks interesting.

H.B.: Don't judge her by her cover.
JASON: It's called "Selfish Answers to Selfish Questions."
H.B.: "A time will come when men will not put up with sound teaching. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will turn to teachers who say what they want to hear. They will turn away from the truth and ..."
S.A.S.Q.: *(Clamps HER hand over HIS mouth.)* H.B., relax. Your pages are ruffling.
TED: *(Getting excited about the book)* I can't believe this. I was just praying about this, and then you come in.
H.B.: Devilish coincidence, Ted.
TED: God sure works in mysterious ways.
S.A.S.Q.: *(Smiles at H.B.)* Doesn't He, though?
TED: I feel better already.
JASON: Wait till you read this baby.
H.B.: Don't go by feelings, Ted. It's a roller coaster ride. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." "There's a way that seems right to a man, but its way ends in death."
S.A.S.Q.: *(Massaging H.B.'s shoulders.)* You're ruffling again. You know, you and I could make a great team.
H.B.: Stay away! If anyone adds to or takes away from this book, God will bring on him...
S.A.S.Q.: Close the book, H.B. Nobody's listening.

(JASON and TED are at the door.)

JASON: I gotta run. Call me and let me know what you think. *(Exits.)*
TED: Sounds good. *(Returns to S.A.S.Q. HE looks her over, flipping through her pages.)*
H.B.: *(To TED with conviction.)* "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

(As HE speaks, the OTHER TWO leave arm in arm. S.A.S.Q. looks back with a smirk.)

H.B.: Go ahead. Leave. Just remember, I'm the one who stayed. Have a nice day. *(Mutters)* You'll be back. I hope.

THE END

Licensed for copies and performance to original purchaser only.

NAKED I WILL RETURN

TOPIC: Surrendering everything to enter God's kingdom. Job 1:21; Luke 9:57-62.

Cast of Characters
(2 M)

BOUNCER
A large man who resembles the bulldog species.
FRED
A small man wearing a baseball cap.

Props: Trash can containing hats, jewelry, wallets and other personal effects. Fred's cap, wallet, watch, rings, calendar, comb, keys, photos, and jacket.
Setting: Outside the door to the greatest party ever thrown.

(AT RISE: BOUNCER stands in front of a doorway CSR with arms crossed in front of a doorway RCS. There's a 30-gallon trash can close by. FRED enters from the audience or SL. He approaches the doorway and starts to go through, but BOUNCER steps in front of him. Fred sidesteps in order to go around him, but Bouncer moves with him. Fred glances around, tries an evasive maneuver, but Bouncer will not let him through.)

FRED: Excuse me, but isn't this the party?
BOUNCER: *(Speaks in a grunt.)* Yeah.
FRED: A friend told me. He said I could just walk in.
BOUNCER: Yeah.
FRED: He said I didn't need a ticket or anything.
BOUNCER: Yeah.
FRED: I've got I.D. *(Opens wallet and shows. BOUNCER just stares hard at HIM.)* I heard that anybody can get in. My friend told me. It sounds like the greatest party ever.
BOUNCER: Yeah.
FRED: So, I can just go in?
BOUNCER: Yeah.
FRED: Okay. *(Nods and moves cautiously toward door.)* I'm just walking in. *(HE tries to slip around BOUNCER, miming a tight squeeze. Bouncer moves, squeezing him, then pushing him back. FRED crawls between his legs. Bouncer brings his legs together and squeezes him. Fred curls around a leg and looks up, his voice strained.)* Is there a problem?
BOUNCER: Yeah. *(HE releases FRED who stands up, staggering.)*

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://95church.com/ponderables

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!