

Dramatic Monologues

Using our imagination to “get inside” the mind and heart of a scriptural character can help us to better understand the Scriptures and appreciate biblical characters as human beings.

1. Choose one of the biblical characters from the list of characters designated for this activity (see the bottom of the handout).
2. Spend some time “getting acquainted” with this person through the careful and repeated reading of one or more biblical texts featuring that person or that person’s friends, family, or associates. You may use a biblical commentary or dictionary to look up additional information about your character and the particular passage or passages in which he or she appears. Using your imagination, try to see events, experiences, and so on, from your character’s point of view.
3. Prepare a dramatic monologue of at least 2 minutes in which you talk about *one* particular event, experience, or choice in your character’s life from his or her point of view.
 - You are going for depth rather than breadth, so do not just speak or write about your character’s life generally. Help us to think about what was going through your character’s mind and heart at that time and in that particular interaction with Jesus.
 - Use your imagination, but do not stray from the biblical text in ways that make no sense.
 - You do not need to summarize the story; rather, try to give new, original insights about the character.
 - You may use updated or current language to express your character’s context, but your character should not be portrayed in a modern situation.
 - Imagine that you really are this person—what would you say about your situation?
4. Type your monologue—this will be handed in on the due date.
5. Deliver your monologue to the class on the due date.
 - Your monologue should be delivered or performed, not read.
 - Be very familiar with your text—almost memorize it.
 - Make good and frequent eye contact with the class.



Characters from Matthew's Gospel

Joseph (chapter 1)
King Herod (chapter 2)
John the Baptist (chapter 3)
Simon Peter
Centurion (whose servant was healed) (chapter 8)
Woman with the hemorrhage (chapter 9)
Canaanite woman (chapter 15)
Rich young man (chapter 19)
One of two blind men healed by Jesus (chapter 20)
Woman who anointed Jesus (chapter 26)
Judas (chapters 26 and 27)
Caiaphas (chapter 26)
Pilate (chapter 27)
Mary Magdalene (chapters 27 and 28)

Characters from Luke's Gospel

Zechariah (chapter 1)
Elizabeth (chapter 1)
Mary, Jesus' Mother
The angel Gabriel (chapter 1)
A shepherd (chapter 2)
John the Baptist (chapter 3)
Simon Peter
Gerasene demoniac (chapter 8)
Woman with a hemorrhage (chapter 8)
Jairus (chapter 8)
Martha (chapter 10)
Crippled woman cured on the Sabbath (chapter 13)
The thankful leper (chapter 17)
The rich official (chapter 18)
Zacchaeus (chapter 19)
Cleopas (chapter 24)

