

# CROSSPOINT YOUTH scripts

## Issue 19

**Synopsis:** The prophet Nathan's confrontation with King David is retold in this Reader's Theater adaptation. A greedy rich rancher takes the only lamb of his poor neighbor in this story within a story.

**Topics:** Sin, Greed, Wealth, Arrogance, Confrontation.

**Time Requirements:** 5 minutes.

**Characters:** Four readers on stools. Each reader serves a dual character function: a narrator to the audience, and a character in the story.

**Props:** Stools, Script-holders.



## 2012 SHEEP

### Stage Setup:



Audience

### User's Guide



#### Discussion Point:

A really good friend will tell you the truth, even if the truth hurts. Do you have friends like that?

*Author's Note:*  
Scene opens on four readers on stools with scripts in black script-holders. This is team story-telling, so keep the pace crisp with the lines almost overlapping, and lots of eye contact between reader and audience.

### Script

- 1: Once upon a time there was a king.  
2: A good king.  
4: A wise king.  
3: Better than your average king.  
1: And he ruled a small kingdom with honesty and justice.  
4: Truth and Integrity  
3: Virtue and righteousness.  
2: Until he messed up in a big way.  
1: Really big.  
3: But nobody knew it because he did such a good job of covering it up.  
2: Because  
4: After all  
2: When you're the king...  
3: You can basically cut off the head of anybody who starts



**Discussion Point:** This king was blind to his sin. So if you're not aware of any sin in your life, what does that tell you?



**Blocking:** Being on stools makes stage movement unnecessary. But make sure you still use natural gestures and lots of good facial expression.

1 minute mark



*Author's Note: It might help to use a different voice when dropping into the "second" character. Also, consider memorizing all lines up the point of the sheep story. Then pull out the scripts to visually show the story within the story.*



**Blocking:** Resist the urge to look at each other. Maintain focus outward toward the audience so they get to see every face clearly.

poking around in your private business.

1: Now this king had a friend.

2: A trusted advisor.

4: And the advisor knew something had to be done.

3: For he loved the king too much to let him continue.

1: But he loved his head enough to want to keep it firmly attached.

3: So he decided to tell a story.

2: Like the one we're telling you now.

1: Because he knew

4: Like we do

1: That stories have a way of sneaking up on a person.

3: So he sat the king down to tell him a story.

2: And his story went like this...

1: Once upon a time there was a man

3: A rich man

4: A very rich man.

2: Who had more cattle and sheep than anyone could count.

1: "Go count my sheep"

2: He would say

3: And his servants did their best.

4: But there were just too many to count.

3: Especially when the little lambs kept squirming out of line.

2: "Ok, now hold still. Were you in the counted bunch or the uncounted bunch?"

1: It was difficult to say.

4: So the servants would come back and report their findings.

2: "You've got... a lot of sheep."

1: "How many?"

3: The master would demand?

2: "A lot"

4: "Thousands"

3: "At least 2012. Maybe more"

1: And the rich man would settle back in his chair with his arms behind his head, and smile.

4: Now down the road was a small house, rented to a servant of the rich man.

2: And in the house lived a small family.

3: And one small lamb.

1: They originally bought the lamb to... you know...

2: Race?

1: No.

3: Pull a cart?

1: No.

4: Oh... you mean?

1: Yes. But never fear. Because the family got so attached to their little lamb that they all agreed they would never be able to... eat it.

2: That's a relief.

3: Yes it is.

1: So the lamb lived with them as a pet. It nibbled on scraps from their table.

4: It slept by the hearth.

3: It fetched the morning paper.

**(All give funny looks to 3)**

3: Well you get the idea. They loved that lamb.

2: Now look, do we have to finish this? Can't we just stop here? Something bad is about to happen, isn't it?

1: You can sorta feel it, can't you?

2: For the rich man had unexpected guests from out of town.

3: And as all rich men do, wanted to throw a feast for the travelers.

4: But as he thought about which of his sheep to...

2: Kill...

4: For the meal, that is, he had a wonderfully evil idea.

1: "I really sort of hate to lose one of my prize lambs just when I was getting close to that magic 2017 mark. I'm only 5 sheep away."

3: He mused to himself.

1: "But my servant down the road... He has a perfectly good

2 minute mark

*Author's Note: Every rule has exceptions. So while the readers don't normally look at each other either as narrators or as characters in the sheep story, when they talk to each other as readers, they do.*

3 minute mark



### Discussion Point:

There are two themes in this story. Stealing (the rich guy and sheep), and covering up sin (King David). Which one do you think is the main point?

### SCRIPTURE LINK:



2 SAMUEL 12:4-7  
NOW A TRAVELER CAME TO THE RICH MAN, BUT THE RICH MAN REFRAINED FROM TAKING ONE OF HIS OWN SHEEP OR CATTLE TO PREPARE A MEAL FOR THE TRAVELER WHO HAD COME TO HIM. INSTEAD, HE TOOK THE EWE LAMB THAT BELONGED TO THE POOR MAN AND PREPARED IT FOR THE ONE WHO HAD COME TO HIM. DAVID BURNED WITH ANGER AGAINST THE MAN AND SAID TO NATHAN, "AS SURELY AS THE LORD LIVES, THE MAN WHO DID THIS DESERVES TO DIE! HE MUST PAY FOR THAT LAMB FOUR TIMES OVER, BECAUSE HE DID SUCH A THING AND HAD NO PITY." THEN NATHAN SAID TO DAVID, "YOU ARE THE MAN!"

lamb that should do quite nicely.

2: So the man sent two of his thugs down the road to the servant's house.

3: And they pulled that lamb from the man's protesting grip with his children crying all around him.

4: And they took that lamb and used it for the rich man's feast.

2: It was here in the story that the king, intent upon the facts

3: Jumped up from his chair in a rage.

1: "Who is this man?"

4: He demanded of his advisor?

1: "Who would do such a ruthless thing? Why, such a cruel character deserves to die!"

2: And he ranted and raved for a while longer until he grabbed that advisor by his coat and demanded feverishly,

1: "Who is this man?"

3: And the advisor took a deep breath, and stared him in the eye, and said..

4: "You...are the man."

1: Immediately the king was struck by the weight of the words.

2: All his crimes and all his deceit washed over him in waves of grief.

3: He stood convicted by his own judgment.

2: A thief.

3: A murderer.

4: Until he could stand it no longer.

1: For such is the power of a story to sneak up on you. So if you're thinking

2: "Who is this king?"

3: And you wonder

2: "What man could be so heartless and blind?"

1: Be careful.

3: Lest someone say to you in your raging,

4: You...are the man.

Lights Out

*Author's Note:*  
*Here's an example of where you use lots of body movement even as you sit on the stool. #3 should mime a fierce tug-of-war during the line about snatching the lamb.*

4 minute mark

Date Performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Actors Used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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Crosspoint Youth Scripts are published 6 times a year by Crosspoint, Inc.

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