



PRAISE & WORSHIP FOR CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

SKETCHES

by Nan Allen

SPEAK LIFE SKETCHES

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*(The songs in this collection are grouped in themes. Change the order to fit your needs.
Short theme-based programs are provided here.)*

SONG: "SPEAK LIFE"

THEME: GOD IS GREAT

SONG: "THE LION AND THE LAMB"

SKETCH: ALL POWERFUL

*(This is a reader's theater; however, it can be read or recited
with several readers or as a monologue.)*

#1: Our God is all-powerful!

#2: He has everlasting strength!

#3: His voice can be heard throughout the universe ...

#1: ... His eyes can see beyond the stars ...

#2: ... His hand can reach into eternity.

#3: He directs the winds and the tides ...

#1: ... He forms the clouds

#2: ... He releases the rain ...

#3: ... He gives the sun its warmth.

#1: God is all-powerful!

#2: He sweeps the ground and the flowers grow ...

#3: ... He waves His arms and the birds fly ...

#1: ... the animals run ... the fish swim.

#2: He breathes life into each newborn child ...

#3: ... and He gently places it into the arms of its mother.

#1: God is all-powerful!

#2: He breaks down walls of silence ...

#3: ... He destroys the bonds of hatred and prejudice ...

#1: ... He replants love and reconciliation.

#2: He gives grace to His children ...

#3: ... He fosters peace in their hearts.

#1: God is all-powerful!

#2: We tremble before Him ...

#3: ... we fall down at His feet ...

#1: ... we stand in awe of His majesty.

#2: We are kept by His power ...

#3: ... we are protected by His might ...

#1: ... we are recipients of His mercy.

#2: God is all-powerful. He is worthy ...

#3: He is worthy ... to receive our praise, our honor ... and our glory!

All: Amen.

SONG: "PRAISE GOD"

SONG: "GREAT ARE YOU, LORD"

THEME: FAR FROM HOME

SONG: "FIX MY EYES"

SKETCH: THE LOST SON

(This sketch can use several characters as walk-ons, meaning they appear but have no lines. The Narrator may speak offstage or be an objective onstage character.)

Characters: Narrator, Dad, Older Son, Younger Son

(enter Dad as Narrator begins)

NARRATOR: There once was a man who had two sons ...

(enter Older Son, crosses to Dad)

OLDER SON: Hi ya, Dad.

DAD: *(proudly)* Son ...

NARRATOR: Uh ... that's two sons ...

(enter Younger Son with an attitude)

YOUNGER SON: I'm coming already ...

DAD: *(crossing to Younger Son)* Hello, Son.

YOUNGER SON: *(to Dad)* Back off, will ya?

NARRATOR: The younger son had an attitude.

DAD: *(to Younger Son)* Sorry.

NARRATOR: But the father loved him anyway.

(Dad tries to hug Younger Son.)

YOUNGER SON: Ewwww. Stop it!

DAD: But, I just love ya, Son.

YOUNGER SON: Oh yeah? *(suddenly has an idea)* Say ... Dad ...

NARRATOR: And the younger son had an idea.

YOUNGER SON: How 'bout letting me ... you know ... have my inheritance now.

(Older Son looks totally outraged.)

NARRATOR: I didn't say it was a good idea. But the father listened anyway.

DAD: Now?

YOUNGER SON: Sure, Dad. I mean, after you're ... well, you know ... gone, you won't be able to see me enjoy the money.

DAD: Well ...

YOUNGER SON: I mean, don't you like to see your little boy enjoy life?
Don't you like to see a smile on my impish face?
Don't you love me, Dad?

DAD: I do love you ... Son.

OLDER SON: *(pleading)* But Dad. Don't do this!

YOUNGER SON: *(to Dad, with mock emotion)* I love ya, man!

(Dad takes out money and gives it to Younger Son; Younger Son storms offstage.)

NARRATOR: And so, against his better judgment, the man gave his youngest son his inheritance.

(Dad exits. Younger Son enters, stands at center stage, counting his money.)

NARRATOR: But that wasn't the end of the story.

YOUNGER SON: Oh yeah?

NARRATOR: That's right. The younger son left with the money and began spending it.

YOUNGER SON: That's more like it.

NARRATOR: He spent money on clothes and food ...

YOUNGER SON: I am awesome!

NARRATOR: ... parties ... and women!

YOUNGER SON: All right!!

NARRATOR: However ...

YOUNGER SON: There's a however?

NARRATOR: There's always a however. Before long ... the cash supply got low.

(Optional: Woman crosses and takes some of the money.)

NARRATOR: The bills started piling up ...

(Optional: Man crosses and takes some of the money.)

NARRATOR: ... and piling up.

*(Optional: Woman crosses to **Younger Son**, who gives her the rest of the money.)*

NARRATOR: And before long the money was gone. No money ... no job.
Far away from home. What to do?

YOUNGER SON: Yeah, what?

NARRATOR: He finally found a job.

YOUNGER SON: *(relieved, arrogantly)* I knew I would.

NARRATOR: ... in a pig sty!

*(Optional: Man enters with a large bucket, crosses to center, handing bucket to **Younger Son**.)*

YOUNGER SON: What? Ah ... man!

NARRATOR: This was not what he had expected.

YOUNGER SON: *(calling out)* Dad ... Dad! Where are ya, Dad?
I'm hungry ... and tired ... and I want to come home.

NARRATOR: The son decided to go home and offer himself to his father ... not as a son but as a servant, for he knew that he had done wrong and did not deserve his father's love.

(enter Dad)

DAD: Son ... is that you?

YOUNGER SON: *(repentantly)* Dad, I'm sorry. I'll do anything if you'll let me come home. I'll work as your servant day and night.
Dad, please! *(falls at Dad's feet, begging)*

DAD: *(helping Younger Son to his feet)* You are my flesh and blood ... and I love you.
(calling to someone offstage) Bring clean clothes and cook a fine feast.
I have something to celebrate. My son has come home.

(Dad and Younger Son exit as Narrator continues.)

NARRATOR: And that's how it is in God's house. There is love and mercy and acceptance for those who return.

SONG: "ONE STEP AWAY"

THEME: PUT IT DOWN

SONG: "THE RIVER"

SKETCH: THE DUMP

(The sketch opens with #2 carrying a large full trash bag, dumping it into a trash can, and starting to walk away. #1 enters and points to the trash can.)

#1: You throwing all this stuff away?

#2: Yeah, that's why they call it trash.

#1: Oh. Mind if I go through it?

#2: No. *(starts to turn to exit, then stops and turns around)* I mean, yeah, I mind. I'm getting rid of all this stuff, and I don't want to see it anymore.

#1: Well, you don't have to look. Turn your back while I take a little peek.

#2: Oh, all right.

(#2 turns his/her back to #1)

#1: *(looking in the bag)* Wow, this is good stuff.

#2: *(turning back around)* What? Where?

#1: Thought you didn't want to look.

#2: Yeah. I mean no. I don't.

#1: *(looking in the bag again)* Oh cool.

#2: *(not turning around but asking)* What?

#1: *(closing the bag)* Hey!

#2: Sorry.

#1: *(continuing to look through the bag)* You're getting rid of this stuff for good, huh? Don't you want to sell it at a yard sale, recycle it, or put it in storage for a rainy day?

#2: *(turning back to #1)* I told you I'm through with all of it. In there is everything I used to be.

#1: Used to be?

#2: Yeah ... angry, afraid, ashamed ...

#1: And now?

#2: Now, I'm ... different.

#1: Oh really?

#2: Yeah, I'm a new person ... or becoming one anyway. See, I laid my whole life before God ... and with my life went all of that stuff that was the old me.

#1: So ...

#2: So ... I'm laying this all down and walking away from it.

#1: So ...

#2: So, I can't imagine why anyone would choose to pick up this stuff.

#1: Well, you know what they say: one man's trash is another man's treasure.

#2: That might work with furniture, or clothes, or even baseball cards, but it doesn't work in life. I know that now. But, if you want what I've thrown away, help yourself. I can't stop you. But I can tell you ... it's no way to live.

SONG: "TRUST IN YOU"

SONG: "JESUS, BE NEAR TO ME" with "I Need Thee Every Hour"

THEME: FIGHT IT OUT

SONG: "MIGHTY REDEEMER"

SKETCH: FAQ

*(The sketch opens with the one asking the question alone onstage.
The one who answers with Scripture is offstage.
This may also be used as a reader's theater.)*

Question: Why, if I'm a believer, am I still feeling like a slave to my old self?

Answer: "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces" (Ephesians 6:12).

Question: Why do I sometimes feel as though I'm in a battle?

Answer: "We live in the flesh [but] we do not wage war according to the flesh, since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. ... we take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Question: So what do I do when Satan tries to make me doubt or slip back into my old ways?

Answer: "Do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Question: So it's a spiritual thing? Is it possible to win this war?

Answer: "In all these things we are more than conquerors through [Christ] who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

Question: That's all there is to it?

Answer: "Since that faith has come, we are no longer [slaves], for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:25).

SONG: "NO LONGER SLAVES"

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SKETCH: THE ADDICT

(This is a monologue delivered to the audience.)

Hello. My name is (insert name), and I have a confession. I. Am. An Addict. I didn't mean for it to happen. I didn't mean to get so out of control. But then ... well, I guess no one ever expects to get hooked.

Like most addictions, it started small. No big deal, ya know. But the more I got, the more I wanted.

My life hasn't been the same since it all began. Everything has changed ... my habits, my attitude, my relationships ... even my grades. The change in me wasn't immediate. It was gradual ... almost unnoticeable at first. But now ... I'm just not the same person.

It was a friend who got me started. He said he wanted me to try something that had really worked for him. Naturally, I didn't believe him. It sounded too good to be true. But, finally he convinced me that I was really missing something if I didn't try it. I was scared at first, but ya know, my friend was right. I had been missing something. What he shared with me made my life complete. It filled every empty space.

So, I admit it. I am addicted. I'm hooked. Sold out. Totally dependent ... on Jesus Christ.

SONG: "SOUL ON FIRE"