

# Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

## RENEWAL

by JOHN COSPER

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A Reader's Theatre for the remembrance of the attacks of 9/11.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This is reader's theater with a twist. Generally, in reader's theater, the readers address the audience only. That's the way this script begins, but not at all how it ends. The turning point is when Christian says "... that is what we need. It's love." And Survivor and Terrorist say together, "Love?" It is at that point that we no longer have "readers" waxing poetic, but real live hurting people who are confused, angry and afraid. Here we have people we can identify with—even the Terrorist. It's a tough juxtaposition and is likely to raise the ire of a few audience members. But that's okay. We use drama in worship to instruct, to make people think, to start discussion. And this script is guaranteed to do that.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 3

**TOPIC:** Loss

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 10:30-37

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** 9/11 Service, Worship Service

**CHARACTERS:**

CHRISTIAN—male or female

SURVIVOR— a female

TERRORIST—a male

**PROPS:** None

**COSTUMES:** None

**SOUND:** 3 wireless mics

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** None

### Drama Ministry

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**SURVIVOR:** Perhaps to you. But I have an empty place in my home that will never be filled again. You can hide all you like from the reality of it, but the world has changed forever.

**TERRORIST:** And the change begun must continue. We cannot go back to the way it was before.

**SURVIVOR:** Perhaps there is truth in that statement. But what kind of change should we seek? Not everything that followed September 11 can be considered positive change. People living in fear. Americans turning on other Americans in hatred because of their race.

**CHRISTIAN:** No, this is not how it should be. The good will, the helping hands we saw on TV, that is what we need. It's love.

**SURVIVOR/TERRORIST:** Love?

**CHRISTIAN:** Yes, love. As Jesus commanded us, we should love our enemies. Love and pray for them, in the hopes that God might change their hearts. That they might see that God is not a God of violence and war, but of grace and mercy. And we must continue to love our neighbors. Our fellow Americans, no matter what their race or color.

**SURVIVOR:** Or lifestyle? I hear your profession of love, Christian, but noble as it sounds, it's not the words I am used to hearing from you. You see, my lover and I were not living in what you would consider to be a holy union. And until the day we were parted, we were faced with the same sort of hate speech we now hear from the terrorists. I never knew about a merciful God. All I heard was judgment, condemnation, and the promise of hell for my transgressions.

**TERRORIST:** Such sinful actions as yours are at the very heart of God's judgment on America! It is you who have violated his law. You who defy him to his face with your wretchedness. That is why God has condemned America.

**CHRISTIAN/SURVIVOR:** As time went on...

**SURVIVOR:** I had to face the inevitable. My love, my partner, my friend, was gone. And the only thing left to hope for was that death's cold hand had come swiftly and without suffering. I had no body to mourn, no graveside to visit. The emptiness lingered...

**CHRISTIAN/SURVIVOR:** ...as time went on...

**CHRISTIAN:** The dust settled. The rubble was cleared away. Again, sitting and watching from the comfort of my own living room, it was still nothing more than a TV show. Could it be possible that this really happened?