

A script from



“Cards You’ve Been Dealt”

by
Eddie James

What This is a Reader’s Theatre based on the video “Cards You’ve Been Dealt”. We’ve all been given painful situations in our lives, but how will you respond to the hand you’ve been given? Themes: contentment, disappointment, encouragement, struggles, life, obstacles, trials

Who Actor 1
Actor 2
Actor 3
Actor 4

When Present day

Wear (Props) 4 large cards made to look like playing cards, but visible enough for your audience. These can be cut from poster board or foam board.

Why Philippians 4:10-13; James 1:2-4

How The actors can be in a straight line across your stage or staggered by a couple sitting on stools and the others standing. Another idea is to stagger them on the front steps of your stage.

At the end of the script, each actor is to reveal a large playing card that says something that they’ve dealt with in their lives. Another option is to have each actor very briefly give a personal testimony of something good that has come out of something bad they’ve experienced. Make sure that these are short and rehearsed.

If the actors have do not say their lines from memory, the script they are holding can also be made to look like a playing card.

For more ideas, watch the preview for this video at www.skitguys.com.

Time Approximately 4-6 minutes

The actors address the audience.

- Actor 1:** Have you ever thought about the cards you've been dealt?
- Actor 3:** Have you ever taken the time and examined life as if it were a hand of cards? Some of you would look at your life and say,
- Actor 4:** "I have a great hand. I want to keep them all".
- Actor 2:** And some of you would look at the hand you've been dealt and say,
- Actor 1:** "these cards are rough and bitter and if I could just exchange them for some new cards then I would be okay."
- Actor 2:** You see, you can't trade the cards you've been given in life. These are your cards whether you like the way they feel or not.
- Actor 3:** It's funny how in life we look at the uglier cards that we don't necessarily want anybody else to see.
- Actor 1:** We try to hide them behind the more noble, significant, prettier cards. It's human nature I guess. But deep down we know the cards we've been dealt. There's no escaping it. It's who we are.
- Actor 4:** These are our cards no matter how we look at it. They're part of our make-up. You are all in.
- Actor 2:** But what if we stopped and just took the time to look at the cards we've been given in life- where do they come from?
- Actor 1:** Was it just life?
- Actor 3:** Or coincidence?
- Actor 4:** Or was it God?
- Actor 2:** Some of you would say,
- Actor 1:** "why would an all-loving, all-caring God knowingly give me this card?"
- Actor 4:** " If he really loved me would he really give me this card?"
- Actor 2:** It's the cards of pain.
- Actor 3:** It's the cards we don't like to talk about-
- Actor 1:** cards of depression,
- Actor 3:** rejection,

Actor 2: that word that seems to linger on in our minds even after all these years,

Actor 4: abuse,

Actor 3: divorce,

Actor 2: even death.

Actor 1: These are real cards. But there are also good cards in our life. Think back to the time when you made your dad laugh when you were a little kid,

Actor 4: when you tied your shoe for the first time,

Actor 2: your first A on a report card,

Actor 3: your first kiss,

Actor 4: your first job,

Actor 2: the first time you stood up for yourself.

Actor 1: These are the cards that you're proud of.

Actor 2: These are the cards that you play over and over again

Actor 4: because these are the pretty cards.

Actor 3: It's a sad fact...

Actor 4: ...but it's true...

Actor 3: ...that we really care what other people think.

Actor 1: These are our favorite cards that we want to show people that we have it all together. But what does God think?

Actor 4: What if God were to choose the cards? What would those look like?

Actor 2: More than likely they wouldn't all be the "happy" cards, but they would be an array of both good and bad cards. We, as humans, do not like the hard cards in life. We try to avoid these like the plague.

Actor 4: But don't discount the fact that God may have a purpose for these cards.

Actor 3: God wants to use the disappointing cards as the cards that fill us up with hope and joy.

Actor 2: To God, they aren't a bunch of both good and bad cards, they're just cards. Cards that would bring him glory,

- Actor 1:** cards that would reveal that it’s his story... not our story,
- Actor 3:** and cards that can maybe even give us a glimpse of what Heaven is like.
- Actor 1:** The crux of the matter is, are we just going to pretend that we are dealing with our cards,
- Actor 4:** are we going to hide behind cards that are more glamorous,
- Actor 3:** or even hide behind cards that aren’t even ours...that belong to other people?
- Actor 2:** Because it’s comfortable
- Actor 3:** ...it’s safe.
- Actor 4:** But if we do that, are we missing out on all that God wants us to be?
- Actor 3:** Are we missing out on all the rich lessons that we could learn for God’s kingdom?
- Actor 2:** From his view, you could have been given the best hand that you could ever have imagined.
- Actor 1:** As for me, I’m going to play the cards that I’ve been dealt.

Actor 1 holds up a card that says something that has happened in his or her life. For example, “Parent’s divorced when I was 6” or “Laid off after 10 years of working for company”, etc. These should be personal to the actor. After a few seconds Actor 2 holds up his or her card and so on with Actors 3 and 4. This is also a great time for personal testimonies.