



Written by  
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## “The Four Loves That Shape Our Lives”

### Scriptures:

Overall Scripture: 1 John 4:11

Specific Skit Scriptures:

“Be Like Little Children”: 1 John 3:18

“The Salt of the Earth”: Matthew 5:13

“The Power of Agape Love”: 1 John 4:7, 8

“The Love Connection”: 1 Corinthians 13:13

**Dramatic Category:** "Collected Skits On A Theme"

### What are "Collected Skits On A Theme"?

"Collected Skits On A Theme" are a group of skits that fit together to make a thematic statement. Each of these collected skits begins with a narrative designed to tie together these skits with segues that bring each skit into the narrative. Each of these skits can also stand alone, but together they combine into one storyline lasting 30-45 minutes. Different casts can perform different skits, or one ensemble cast can perform all of them. These skits set up the pastor for a sermon on the central topic of the skits.

### NOTE:

In this “Collected Skits On A Theme,” four "Skits" are presented either back-to-back or in sequential weeks. Each one presents a deeper look at "The Four Loves": "Eros," “Storge,” “Phileo,” and God's “Agape” love. The four Skits are:

1. “Be Like Little Children” (script #S1)
2. “The Salt of the Earth” (script #S2)
3. “The Power of Agape Love” (script #S3)
4. "The Love Connection" (script #S4)

**Topic:** Four kinds of love that govern our lives

**Performance Time:** 1 hour

**Number of Players:** 8 players (*4 men and 4 women*)

(or between 16–32 players, if you use a new cast for each skit)

**Objective:**

These "Collected Skits On A Theme" are on the theme of "The Four loves" that govern our lives: Eros, that ignites our passions; Phileo, that urges us to develop like-minded loyalties; Storge, that cements our family relationships, and God's Agape love, that provides the "light and salt" attitudes and behaviors which keep our three earthly relationships (Eros, Phileo, and Storge) from spoiling.

**Synopsis:**

This four-skit "Collected Skits On A Theme" presents an extensive look at "The Four Loves" that govern our motivations, based on both scriptural definitions and the enlightening work of the author, C.S. Lewis in his book, *The Four Loves*.

"Be Like Little Children" opens this series of skits by introducing seven children (portrayed by adults or real children) who learn that God's love is different from any of the loves we have in our lives.

These children grow up and become older youth in the skit entitled, "The 'Salt of the Earth'" in which these same seven youth learn how different "Eros," "Phileo," and "Storge" love are from each other and how much "Agape" love is needed to keep them from spoiling.

We join the same cast as they become senior citizens in "The Power of 'Agape' Love" and watch them as they turn "Agape" love into action by helping each other solve their problems.

Finally, in "The Love Connection" we enjoy a game show spoof as women who are vying to be the "dream date" of Dan O'Malley personify each of the four loves.

Short "sermonettes" are found at the back of this script to explain, in greater detail, the nature of these four loves. You are welcome to distribute these notes to your congregation and embellish them to meet your needs. It is the voice of the preacher that ties these skits together; there is no "narrative" out of which all of these skits spring.

**SERMON NOTE:**

Four "Skits" are presented either back-to-back or in sequential weeks. It is up to the choice of the pastor, or director. Each one presents a deeper look at "The Four Loves." The same cast presents all four skits in soap-opera style.

Three "sermonettes" are outlined as suggested content for the pastor's comments, which serve as segues between scripts. These sermonettes can be used to expound on the nature of each one of the loves separately, or tie all four skits together at the conclusion of the show.

The content of these "Collected Skits On A Theme" comes largely from the book of 1John and from a book by C.S. Lewis entitled, *The Four Loves*, (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York, 1960.) For greater insight on this topic, or for sermon preparation on the critical role of "Agape" in our love relationships, please consult this text. It can be purchased at any major bookstore, as well as at the "Into The Wardrobe" website:

<http://www.cslewis.drzeus.net>, a website dedicated to the works of C.S. Lewis.

**NOTE: “The Four Loves” Drawing** (located at the end of the script)

A drawing that summarizes “The Four Loves,” has been creatively created for this script. The characters are reading their “Agape” script to the world; but how can their voices reach the “ends of the earth,” if they cannot even reach their family in the front row? If they can carry past the front row, then their voices will be loud enough to keep their “Phileo” bonds focused on God’s agenda, and keep their “Eros” passions in check.

As a purchaser of this script, you have permission to copy this drawing for the purposes of illustrating the concepts of this “Collected Skits On A Theme.”

**The Cast:**

**NOTE:**

The seven players perform in all four skits. Their specific “character roles” change in each skit. In all skits, **except** “The Love Connection,” they retain their same names, but they serve a different function. In “The Love Connection,” they portray different people altogether, and shed they normal “player” names. In the first three skits, the players’ ages change from children in “Become Like Little Children,” to older youth in “The Salt of the Earth,” and finally, seniors in “The Power of Agape Love.” Refer to the “Cast Roles Chart,” below, for the specific character changes in each skit. You will find character descriptions for each of the characters at the beginning of each skit’s script.

**Cast Roles Chart**

<b>Player Name</b>	<b>“Become Like Little Children”</b>	<b>“The Salt of The Earth”</b>	<b>“The Power of Agape Love”</b>	<b>“The Love Connection”</b>
<b>Ken</b>	The Sunday school teacher	The Sunday school teacher	Remembered only by his picture	Jack, the game show host
<b>Andy</b>	Little boy who has a crush on Jan	Engaged to Jan	Celebrating 50th anniversary with Jan	Dan O'Malley, the “nerdy” contestant
<b>Jan</b>	A little girl pursued by Andy	Engaged to Andy	Celebrating 50th anniversary with Andy	“Agape” love
<b>Jennifer</b>	Michelle’s sister	Michelle’s sister	Michelle’s sister	“Eros” love
<b>Michelle</b>	Jennifer's sister	Jennifer's sister	Jennifer's sister	“Phileo” love
<b>Lisa</b>	A controlling choir member	A member of the “youth band” with band jacket	She wears a choir pin on her dress.	“Storge” love
<b>Bobby</b>	A choir member	A member of the “youth band” with band jacket	He wears a choir pin on his tie.	A stagehand
<b>Mike</b>	A wise-cracking choir member	A member of the “youth band” with band jacket	He wears a choir pin on his tie.	A stagehand

## Props:

*For "Be Like Little Children"*

A flower for Andy to give to Jan

A Bible with Ken's "cheat script" inside (a reduction of the script)

*For "The Salt of the Earth"*

A chef's hat for Ken

A Bible with Ken's "cheat script" inside (a reduction of the script)

Use **real steak, chicken, and fish** and spices for an unforgettable lesson!

*For "The Power of Agape Love"*

A large picture of Ken, their beloved Sunday school teacher from their childhood days

A Bible with Ken's "cheat script" inside (a reduction of the script)

*For "The Love Connection"*

Four glittery signs that read: "AGAPE," "EROS," "STORGE," and "PHILEO"

A divider so Dan cannot see the girls

2 "APPLAUSE" signs

2 "LAUGH" signs

A Bible for Agape

A 5x7 colored index card

## Costumes:

*For "Be Like Little Children"*

Dress the players as children.

Identify the kids' choir members (Bobby, Lisa, and Mike) with a badge, scarf, or sash.

The sisters should have matching dresses, if possible.

### NOTE:

**Do not dress the adults in "goofy" kid outfits; portray contemporary kids.**

*For "The Salt of the Earth"*

Identify the youth band members (Bobby, Lisa, and Mike) with "cool" jackets, etc.

Dress the youth players in youth attire (use acceptable current trends)

Dress the teacher in casual attire

*For "The Power of Agape Love"*

Identify the adult choir members (Bobby, Lisa, and Mike) with choir pins.

Dress the players in senior citizen attire

*For "The Love Connection"*

Make these costumes indicative of the kind of love portrayed:

"Agape" wears a comfortable, non-flashy, casual outfit

"Storge" wears a bathrobe, slippers and her hair in curlers

"Phileo" wears some type of team logo, hat, banner, showing affiliation

"Eros" is gorgeous; beautifully dressed in jewels and fancy things

Dress Dan with dark, nerdy glasses, trousers at waist height, etc.

Dress stagehands alike (in black)

**Sound:**

Wireless mics for contestants and Host  
A game show “buzzer” sound effect

**Music:**

Game show music  
Instrumental version of “There’s No Place Like Home”  
A “high school fight song”  
“Romantic” instrumental music

**Stage Arrangement:**

*(Each stage arrangement is different. Have the stagehands (dressed in black) reset the stage for the next scene while the pastor presents the sermonette and introduces the next skit. See each skit for staging notes.)*

# “Be Like Little Children”

## Synopsis:

In this first skit, of four, we meet the young Sunday school class. They are children, and their teacher, Ken Jones, introduces them to the kind of love God gave us to make our relationships on this earth work: “Agape” love. He briefly identifies “The Four Loves.” In the class, are examples of the three "earthly loves": a flirting couple, foreshadowing “Eros” (romantic love); a set of sisters, showing an example of “Storge” (family love); and a trio of children’s choir members, showing an example of “Phileo” (brotherly love united by a cause.) Ken does his best to communicate the simplicity of God’s love, “Agape,” (an act of kindness in the other person’s best interest,) as a “verb,” something we “do” rather than something we merely “say.”

## Cast:

Ken: *The Sunday school teacher*  
Jan: *A little girl pursued by Andy*  
Andy: *A little boy who has a mad crush on Jan*  
Michelle: *Jennifer's sister*  
Jennifer: *Michelle's sister*  
Mike: *A wisecracking choir member identified by a choir sash or badge*  
Lisa: *A choir member, with the same identifier as Mike, who tries to control Mike*  
Bobby: *A choir member, wearing the same identifier as the others*

## Staging Arrangement:

Have the children enter from the audience when Ken calls the children up for Sunday school. He presents the lesson in the center of 2 rows of chairs that face out to the audience.  
(See the diagram below)

	<b>Andy</b>		
	<b>Michelle</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Bobby</b>
<b>Jennifer</b>			<b>Mike</b>
<b>Jan</b>			<b>Lisa</b>

## The Script:

*(The children enter very excited about Sunday school. Relationships are established as Ken calls them up from the audience. The children are all talking with the people as they enter the sanctuary, as though the audience members were kids on a playground.)*

**Ken:**

*(Entering, carrying books and setting up the chairs. He checks his watch and looks out into the audience.)*

Children, children, it's time for Sunday school.  
Playtime is over.  
*(He gets little response.)*

Jan, Andy, come on up!

**Jan:**

*(squealing)* Stop it, Andy!  
Teacher, he pulled my hair!

*(She starts charging up the center aisle with Andy close behind her.)*

**Andy:**

I did not!

*(They arrive on stage only to be held apart by Ken. Jan and Andy adlib teasing each other; Jan wants to sit as far away from Andy as possible. Ken makes peace.)*

*(Andy continues to scoot toward Jan.)*

*(Michelle and Jennifer walk up the side aisle.)*

**Jennifer:**

*(remembering a family vacation)*  
I don't like camping. I hate getting dirty!

**Michelle:**

Dirt is good for you; that's what Dad always says.  
*(remembering a camping trip)*

**Ken:**

Hello girls; have a seat; we'll get started.

**Jan:**

Sit by me, please!  
*(She glares at Andy, who moves back.)*

What about the choir? Don't we have to wait for them?

**Andy:**

Here they come!

*(Lisa, Bobby, and Mike enter down the opposite side from Michelle and Jennifer's entrance; so the entire audience gets an "up close" feel as the characters enter. They are practicing some children's song that has a harmony or is sung in a round, as they enter. Lisa is trying to help the boys "get it right.")*

**Lisa:** No, no, no!  
You guys don't come in there; that's the girl's part.  
Let's try it again.

**Ken:** *(once they have arrived and are seated)* You sound fantastic!

**Lisa, Mike, & Bobby:** Thanks.

**Mike:** *(to the other children)* I'll bet you guys wish you were in the choir like we are, huh?

**Bobby:** There's no more room in the choir.  
It's full; too bad for you.  
We're better!

**Ken:** *(seeing that Bobby hurt some feelings)* Bobby!  
Just because you are in the choir, doesn't mean you are better!

**Mike:** It just means we're cool, and you're not!  
*(The choir members laugh and the others glare.)*

**Ken:** Hold it right there;  
you've hit on exactly what I want to talk to you about today.

**Lisa, Mike, and Bobby:** The choir?

**Ken:** No, not the choir: Love.

*(The children pick up on the joke of calling one another, "Love," and they begin to greet each other that way.)*

**Ken:** Okay, okay!  
Who can tell me what the word, "love," means?

**Jan:** *(standing as though it were a spelling bee)* Love means  
that you like something or somebody a whole lot: Love.  
*(She sits.)*

**Andy:** I love Jan.

**Jan:** Oh please!



**Lisa:** Love means that you will do something for somebody else.

**Bobby:** Love means you'll share your stuff!

**Mike:** I love my dog.

**Michelle & Jennifer:** I love my sister. *(they hug)*

**Lisa:** Don't you guys ever fight?

**Michelle & Jennifer:** *(answering in unison)*  
Michelle answers: "No," Jennifer answers: "Yes,"

**Michelle:** *(to Jennifer)* We do not!

**Jennifer:** *(to Michelle)* We do to!  
  
*(They begin to argue.)*

**Ken:** *(stopping the conflict)* Okay, okay.  
Stop it!  
We're talking about love not war!  
  
*(reestablishing order)*  
You've said some very good things about love.  
I've heard you say, Jan, that love means you like someone a whole lot.  
And, Lisa, we do thing for the people we love.  
Bobby, you are right, too.  
We share our stuff with the people we love.

**Mike:** *(interrupting)* And we love our dogs; don't forget the dogs.

**Ken:** Yes, Mike, we love our dogs.

**Jan:** So, we're all right.

**Ken:** Yes you are, but I'm going to tell you today what God's love is like.  
We even have a special name for God's love; it's called "Agape."

**Mike:** Isn't that a tiny fish?

**Lisa:** *(trying to hush the "funny boy")* That's "a guppy,"  
now stop it and pay attention.

**Mike:** *(mischievously)* Sorry.