



Written by
Cora Alley

“Be Like Little Children”

Scripture: 1 John 3:18

Dramatic Category: Skit

NOTE:

This skit can stand alone; however, it is skit #1 of a 4-skit “Collected Skits On A Theme” entitled, “The Four Loves That Shape Our Lives.” The series includes:

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

It is ideal if the same cast can perform all the skits in this “Four Loves” series, however, varied casts can perform them.

Topic: An introduction to God’s divine, “Agape” love.

Performance time: 8 minutes

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

Objective:

This skit is designed to set up the Pastor's message on "The Four Loves" by briefly introducing each of the loves and to showing that “Agape” love is a verb and not a noun when used as Jesus meant it in the New Testament. Love denotes action.

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:

NOTE:

This is the first skit in a series of four that explores the four loves. For a “continuing story charm” ask the same ensemble cast of eight to appear throughout the next three skits. For this skit, dress the adults as children.

It would be ideal to use real children. Try to get look-alikes for the youth skit (“The Salt of The Earth” script #S2), and the seniors skit (“The Power of Agape Love” script #S3) that follow this one.

- 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*

Costumes:

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.

Props:

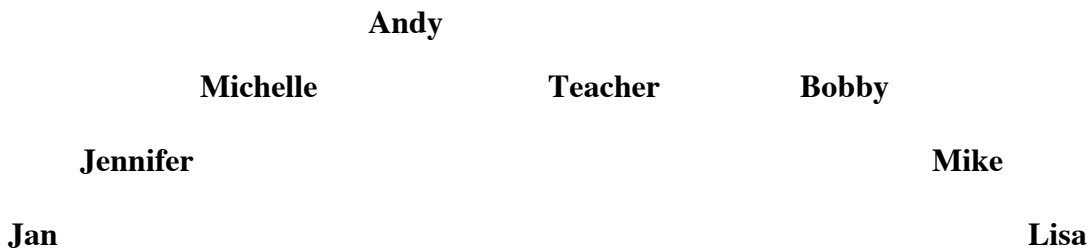
- A flower for Andy to give to Jan
- A Bible with Ken's "cheat script" inside

NOTE:

See the end of this script for Ken's "cheat script." His lines can be a bit much, so placing them in his Bible will help him move this skit along.

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)



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.

Ken: (*to Lisa*) Thank you.
You're going to be in charge of Mike for the rest of this class time.

Lisa: (*lording it over Mike*) I'm in charge of you.

Mike: (*defiantly*) Dream on!

Ken: Can we go on now?

(*The children nod in agreement.*)

“Agape” love is a love that comes from Heaven.
God puts it in our hearts when we become Christians.

Michelle: What about people who aren't Christians?
Don't they love each other?

Ken: Sure they do.

Jennifer: So, what kind of love do they have?

Ken: They have very good kinds of love.

Andy: What kinds?

Ken: Well, they have “Storge” love;
that's family love like Michelle and Jennifer have for each other.

(*He moves to where Jennifer and Michelle are seated beside each other and puts his hands on their shoulders. The two girls put their heads together.*)

They also have “Eros” love that moms and dads
and boyfriends and girlfriends have for each other.

Andy: (*leaning over to Jan*) I Eros you.

Jan: (*reacting in disgust.*) You do not!

Ken: (*moving over to where Mike, Lisa, and Bobby are seated*)
An then there's “Phileo” love that people who are part of the same group
or club have for each other, like you choir members.

Mike: (*making a face at Ken and motioning to Lisa*)
I don't “love” her?

Lisa: (*snippy*) You have to; I'm in charge of you.

Jennifer: Don't Christians have all those kinds of love, too?

Ken: Yes, God gave us all those loves to make our families and our friendships work, but He only gave His special kind of heavenly love, called "Agape,"
to Christians who love Him.

Kids: *(appearing to be quite puzzled)*

Ken: Let me explain it this way,
"Agape" love is more like a "verb" than it is a noun.

Kids: *(chattering among themselves)* What? What's a noun? etc...

Ken: Let me explain what I mean.

Michelle: What's a verb?

Andy: If I could sit by Jan, I could "get this."
(He starts to get up and move over to Jan.)

Ken: *(stopping Andy and returning him to his seat)*
No, you stay right here.

(He sits him back down.)

Jan: *(relieved)* Thanks.

Ken: Let's start with the basics. Who can tell me what a noun is?

Kids: *(in unison)* A person, place, or thing.

Ken: Very good; now, what is a verb?

Mike: *(to Lisa)* Is this an English class?

Lisa: *(sternly)* Don't talk!

Bobby: *(answering Ken)* A verb is an action word.

(all the kids looks at him.)

Well, it is; it's a word like "stare."

(He stares back at them.)

Ken: You're right, Bobby, a verb is an action word, like run, hug, sing.
"Agape" love is more like a verb than it is a noun.
When we love each other like God loves us,
we are constantly doing things for each other.
We don't just talk about our love;
we show our love...everyday, all the time.

(Ken open his Bible to 1 John 3:18)

Listen, this is what God's word says about "Agape" love:
"Little children, let us not love with words but in deed and truth."
Who can tell me what that means?

Bobby: It means we should not just talk about love, but we should...

Mike: *(interrupting Bobby and finishing his sentence)* Do it.

Bobby: *(looking wounded)* I was going to say that.

Lisa: Michael!

Mike: *(to Lisa)* You're not the boss of me!

(Lisa folds crosses her arms and sits with her back to Mike as though she were not speaking to him now.)

Ken: *(moves over to where Lisa and Mike are sitting)*

You're right, Bobby.
We should "do" kind things for each other
and not just talk about doing nice things.
For example:
(He puts one hand on Mike's shoulder and the other on Lisa's)

When we are upset with each other
we should talk about it and apologize.
We should not stay mad.

Mike: *(sheepishly)* I'm sorry.
I should have let Bobby finish.

Lisa: I guess I can get bossy.

Mike: *(eagerly)* I'll say!

Ken: *(quick to rescue the moment and return the attention back to the lesson)*
As I was saying, people who show "Agape" love
do and say the kinds of things that God would do and say
in any situation. That's what the Bible tells us.

All right, here's your homework.

Mike: This isn't real school; it's Sunday school.
It's supposed to be more fun.

Lisa: *(gently smiling at him with her teeth bared)*

Ken: This will be fun.
God's love is always perfect.
Here's your assignment:
Do something nice for someone this week
and show them that you love them.

Jennifer: I'm going to love everybody that loves me.

Ken: Try showing love to those who you don't like.
It's easy to love those who love you.
Try loving an enemy.

Kids: *(shocked)* That's hard! etc....

Ken: Yes, but God's love is different!

Bobby: I'm going to love everybody I know.

Ken: Try doing something nice for some people you don't know.

Kids: *(shocked)* That's hard! etc....

Ken: Yes, but God's love is different!

Michelle: I'm going to share some of my extra stuff with my friends.

Ken: Try sharing some of your favorite stuff with your friends.

Kids: *(shocked)* That's hard! etc...

Ken: Yes, but God's love is different!

Mike: I'm going to show love whenever I feel like it.

Ken: Try showing love when you don't feel like it.

Kids: *(shocked)* That's hard! etc...

Ken: Yes, but ...
(The children join him this time in finishing the sentence)

All: God's love is different!

Ken: Try to understand that God's "Agape" love expects more and gives more
than any ordinary type of love.
Ask God to help you this week as you practice it, okay?
It's "Agape" love that makes Christians stand out!

Kids: We'll try.

Ken: God will help you!
He works inside you, so ask for His help.

Kids: *(small talk as they exit.)* Okay, bye, etc.

(The stage clears except for Jan and Andy. Jan is fumbling with her shoelace, finally she ties it.)

Andy: *(shyly)* Jan.

Jen: What, Andy?

Andy: Did you hear what Mr. Jones said about how we should do nice things for people when we love them in God's way with that agaaaep....ageeee...*(He can't say the word.)*

Jen: Agape.

Andy: Right, Agape love.

Jan: Yes, I heard what he said.

Andy: *(revealing the flower he has behind his back)*
Well, here it is.
I picked it just for you!

Jan: *(touched)* Really, thanks.
That's very sweet of you.

Andy: Do you love me now?

Jen: *(repulsed at the thought)* No!

Andy: But, you have to!

Jan: I do not!
(She exits in a huff.)

Andy: But Mr. Jones said you're supposed to love people even when you don't feel like it, so you have to love me.
(He takes off, chasing after Jan.)
Jan....Jan, come here!

The End

Ken's "Cheat Script"

(Place this in his Bible; cut it to fit, then turn the pages.)

Entrance: *Make peace between Andy and Jan*

Welcome sisters; Tell choir they "aren't better."

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

(kids answer)

Ken: *(Stopping the conflict)*
Okay, okay. Stop it.
We're talking about love not war!

(Re-establishing 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: Dogs...

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: A guppie

Ken: *(To Lisa)* **Thank you.**
You're going to be in charge of Mike for the rest of this class time.

Ken: **Can we go on now?**

(The children nod in agreement.)

"Agape" love is a love that comes from Heaven.
God puts it in our hearts when we become Christians.

Others have love too, etc...

Andy: What kinds?

Ken: **Well, they have "Storge" love; that's family love like Michelle and Jennifer have for each other.**

Jennifer and Michelle = Storge examples

Jen & Andy = Eros examples

Choir = Phileo examples

Jennifer: Don't Christians have all those kinds of love, too?

Ken: Yes, God gave us all those loves to make our families and our friendships work, but He only gave His special kind of heavenly love, called "Agape," to Christians who love Him.

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Andy wants to sit by Jan

Ken: Let's start with the basics. Who can tell me what a noun is?

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(Ken open his Bible to 1 John 3:18)

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Who can tell me what that means?

(Lisa & Mike routine)

Ken: *(Moves over to where Lisa and Mike are sitting.)*

You're right, Bobby.
We should "do" kind things for each other
and not just talk about doing nice things.

For example:

(He puts one hand on Mike's shoulder and the other on Lisa's)

When we are upset with each other we should talk about it and apologize.
We should not stay mad.

(Lisa & Bobby routine)

Ken: *(quick to rescue the moment and return the attention back to the lesson)*

As I was saying, people who show "Agape" love
do and say the kinds of things that God would do and say in any situation.
That's what the Bible tells us.

All right, here's your homework.

(kids complain)

Ken: **This will be fun.**
God’s love is always perfect.
Here’s your assignment:
Do something nice for someone this week and show them that you love them.

Jennifer: I’m going to love everybody that loves me.

Ken: **Try showing love to those who you don’t like.**
It’s easy to love those who love you.
Try loving an enemy.

Kids: *(shocked)* That’s hard! etc....

Ken: **Yes, but God’s love is different!**

Bobby: I’m going to love everybody I know.

Ken: **Try doing something nice for some people you don’t know.**

Kids: hard... "God's love is different"

Michelle: I’m going to share some of my extra stuff with my friends.

Ken: **Try sharing some of your favorite stuff with your friends.**

Kids: *(shocked)* That’s hard! etc.... "God's love is different"

Mike: I’m going to show love whenever I feel like it.

Ken: **Try showing love when you don’t feel like it.**

Kids: *(shocked)* That’s hard! etc...."God's love is different"

Ken: **Yes, but**
(The children finish the sentence)!

Ken: **Try to understand that God’s “Agape” love**
expects more and gives more than any ordinary type of love.
Ask God to help you this week as you practice it, okay?
It’s “Agape” love that makes Christians stand out!

Kids: hard....

Ken: **God will help you! He works inside you, so ask for His help.**