



Written by Cora Alley

# "The Salt of the Earth"

# Scripture: Matthew 5:13

## Dramatic Category: Skit

## NOTE:

This skit can stand alone; however, it is skit #2 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:** "Agape" love as a preservative to earthly loves

Performance Time: 20 minutes

Number of Players: 8 players (4 men and 4 women – may be youthagers)

# **Objective:**

All four loves are presented as though they were pieces of meat at a barbecue: A great deal is at "steak" in our (Storge) family loves; (Phileo) brotherly love is often "chicken"; and, something is usually "fishy," in our (Eros) passion relationships; but, God's Agape love serves as a "seasoning" to add flavor and to keep all these earthly loves from spoiling.

#### Synopsis:

In this second skit of the four in "The Four loves Series," we see that the children from skit 1's Sunday school class have grown up into older youth. The teacher, Ken O'Malley, contrasts God's "Agape" love with the "Eros" (romantic love) between Jan and Andy, by telling them that God's love is not dependent on physical beauty. He contrasts "Agape" with the "Storge" (family love) of the sisters, by telling them that God's love is courteous and peaceable, and finally he encourages the youth band to add "Agape" love to "Phileo" (friendship love) because "Phileo" is the love of "world-changers," as long as they are committed to a godly cause. He introduces "Agape" as a preservative (salt) that keeps our earthly relationships from spoiling.

#### Cast:

## NOTE:

This is the second 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.

Ken:	The Sunday school teacher
Jan:	Engaged to Andy
Andy:	Engaged to Jan
Michelle:	Jennifer's sister
Jennifer:	Michelle's sister
Mike:	A member of the "youth band" wearing the band jacket
Lisa:	A band member, wearing the same band jacket
Bobby:	A band member, wearing the same band jacket

#### **Costumes:**

Dress these adults up as youths, reflecting modern fashion trends. Find matching band jackets.

#### **Props:**

A chef's hat for Ken 7 chairs, and/or desks A Bible with Ken's "cheat script" inside

#### **NOTES:**

If you can handle the hassle, use **real meat** for the bar-b-que scene rather than pantomime. The scene works well in pantomime, but nothing can beat the real thing! Get a **card table**, cover it with a **plastic table cloth**, get some **spice shakers**, and one **steak**, one **chicken**, and **two cat fish** (complete with tails and heads!) Your audience will <u>never forget</u> the lesson, guaranteed!

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.

#### **Editorial NOTE:**

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.

# The Script:

(Jan and Andy enter, holding hands.)	
Jan:	Don't you love that stoneware pattern? And, the crystalhave you ever seen anything so delicate?
Andy:	(holding up Jan's hand) Yes, the delicate touch of your ivory skin, my dear. (He kisses her hand.)
Jan:	( <i>obviously touched</i> ) How sweet; but I'm talking about the treasures we're going to get.
Andy:	(slyly romantic) So am I.
Jan:	Oh Andy, you're so romantic. We're going to be so happy.
	(Jan throws her arms around Andy and hugs him.)

(Michelle and Jennifer enter from the opposite side of the stage. Try to have each pair enter from the same side as they entered from in skit 1: "Be Like Little Children.")

Michelle:	How are the lovebirds?
Jennifer:	Planning your nest?
Michelle:	When are you getting married?
Andy:	One month, three weeks, five days, and <i>(looking at his watch)</i> four hours.
Jennifer:	I wonder if I'll ever get married.
Michelle:	Sure you will, and I'll be there to hand you your cane, so you can make it down the aisle.
Jennifer:	(insulted) What is that supposed to mean?
Jan:	(coming to Michelle's rescue) Emphasis on mean
Andy:	<ul> <li>(taking charge) Calm down, girls.</li> <li>You're all going to land a gorgeous guy like me one of these days;</li> <li>it's just coming to one of you,</li> <li>(he hugs Jan) sooner than the others.</li> <li>Be patient, there's got to be another one out there somewhere.</li> </ul>

(Jan elbows him.)

(The band members (Lisa, Bobby, and Mike) enter down the center aisle. They wear matching band jackets.)

Bobby:	(to Lisa) Look, if you're going to sing lead, you're going to have to put more into it. You sound pasty.
Lisa:	Pasty? What's pasty?
Bobby:	Pasty is well, it's boring lifeless no sizzle!
Lisa:	I sizzle!
Mike:	You don't sizzle.

#### **Bobby:**

(Pulling his drumsticks out of his back pocket and using them as a microphone, while jumping onto the stage with wild enthusiasm. He sings the first line of some contemporary Christian, youth song.)

	That is sizzle!
	(All the others applaud Bobby's efforts.)
Michelle:	(to the band) You guys are famous; did you know that?
Jennifer:	Yeah, everybody's talking about you?
Michelle:	But we don't see much of you anymore. I meanwe grew up together and everything, but now you keep pretty much to yourselves.
Mike:	I'm sorry.
Bobby:	(glaring at Lisa) It's just that some of us need more practice than others.
Lisa:	Oh yeah?
Bobby:	Yeah!
Mike:	Yeah!

(Ken O'Malley, the same Sunday school teacher that appeared in Skit #l, enters just in time to make the peace between Bobby and Lisa.)

Ken:	You guys working on a Beatles song?
	(They all look puzzled.)
	Yeah, yeah, yeah
Mike:	(getting the joke) No, just razzing the "sizzle-challenged."
Ken:	Your band was great at the junior high study last Thursday night. Those kids just loved you.
	( <i>pause to remember</i> ) You know, it doesn't seem like that long ago that you were all kids, but now you're in collegeoff doing your own thing;
	(he turns to Jan and Andy)getting married and stuff!
Michelle & Jan:	(in unison) Some are!
Ken:	That's my topic for today.
Michelle:	Old maids?
Ken:	No! Love.
All:	(taking their seats and mumbling something like) We know about love; God is love; etc
Ken:	I know, I know, but do you really understand how God's "Agape" love is different from the three kinds of "earthly" love?
Jan:	God's love is unconditional.
Andy:	Sacrificial
Michelle:	"Agape" love does what's best for people; no matter how you feel about them.
Jennifer:	Whether you know them or not.
Lisa:	(to Bobby) Whether you like them or not!
Ken:	Excellent! You've really got a grasp on "Agape" love.
Mike:	We should; you've been talking about it since we were kids.

Bobby: Ken:	What do you mean, "earthly loves"? There are four kinds of love; did you know that?
All:	(look puzzled) Nowhat do you meanetc.
Ken:	(standing behind Jan and Andy) Your kind of love is called "Eros."
Jan:	What's "Eros"?
Andy:	(shocked) You mean you don't know?
Ken:	"Eros" is a passionate desire to possess whatever you think is beautiful.
Andy:	(dreamily to Jan) I Think you're beautiful.
Jan:	(casting a worried glance to Ken) What do you mean, possess?
Ken:	I mean we are attracted to beautiful people and things with our "Eros" love. It is the strong, romantic love couples feel.
	(Andy puts his arm around Jan.)
	Or the feeling we get when we finally get that car we've been wanting or ( <i>to Bobby</i> ) the new drum set we've been dreaming about.
	(Ken moves over to Michelle and Jennifer. He stands behind them.)
	You two, on the other hand, share a love that is called "Storge."
Michelle & Jennifer	":"Storge"?
Ken:	Yes, "Storge" love is the love shared between family members. It's called the "love of the familiar."
Jennifer:	What do you mean?
Ken:	"Storge" loves you because you are familiar to it. You've lived together so long that you just sort of assume that you love each other; it's a very nice kind of love, but you don't talk about it much do you?
Jennifer:	I guess not.
Ken:	(to Jennifer) Don't you just assume that Michelle loves you?
Jennifer:	YeahI do. (looking at Michelle) You do, don't you?

Michelle:	Of course I do; what kind of a question is that?
Ken:	See what I mean! "Storge" love is seldom talked about; it's just supposed to be there, so it usually is. It's not a showy, mushy love like "Eros."
Michelle:	(to Jan and Andy) They're all mush!
	(Ken moves over to where the band is seated.)
Ken:	You three share a love called "Phileo."
Mike:	(to Bobby and Lisa) See, you two share love. There's hope.
Ken:	You share a very powerful love. The most powerful of all three of the earthly loves: "Phileo" love is called friendship!
Band:	(surprised) We do? Really? etc.
Ken:	Phileo love is a love shared by people who have something in common. You all love music, so you have a "Phileo" bond as musicians.
Jan:	Where does "Agape" fit in?
Ken:	"Agape" love is really a way of acting once you are in a family, or in a romantic relationship, or in a friendship. It's also a way of behaving toward people you don't have a relationship with yet.
Jan:	I'm confused?
Andy:	How can you love somebody you don't have a relationship with?
Ken:	"Agape" love is more like a bunch of good ideas. It means doing the <u>best</u> thing for people, even when you don't know them.
Lisa:	I'm lost.
Bobby:	Of course!
Mike:	(keeping the peace) Stop it!
	(to Ken) Go on; they're sorry.

Ken:	"Agape" love feeds the hungry, clothes those who need clothing; it gives shelter to the poor; it creates jobs; it visits the lonely; it cheers up the sad. It is a very active love, but it does not necessarily have to have a relationship with the people who receive the "Agape" love.
Lisa:	(excited, and pointing to Bobby and Mike) So, I don't have to have "Agape" love for them?
Ken:	Oh yes you do!
Lisa:	(defeated) Just though I'd ask.
Ken:	"Agape" love keeps all of our earthly loves from spoiling.
Lisa:	Still lost.

(Bobby raises his head to speak, but Lisa holds up her hand as if to say, "Don't even think about talking." Bobby is silenced.)

Ken:	What keeps our food from spoiling, and makes it taste better.
All:	(various responses surrounding "salt.") Saltspices, etc
Ken:	Right! Without salt, our food is bland, almost tasteless. When God gave "Agape" love to Christians, He commanded us to bring flavor into our relationships and make them so "spicy" that the world would want what we have.
Andy:	Spicy! I like that. (Jan elbows him again.)
Ken:	Listen. ( <i>He opens his bible to Matthew 5: 13a</i> ) ( <i>reading</i> ) "You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, what good is it?
Michelle:	How do we salt our relationships?
Ken:	Think of it this way. We're all at a barbecue. ( <i>He puts on his chef's hat.</i> )
Mike:	Okay, I'm there.

Bobby:	Me, too.
Ken:	Each one of these earthly loves, or relationships, is a kind of meat.
Jennifer:	Why?
Ken:	Just go with me, here.

(Ken steps forward and pantomimes the action as he describes all three kinds of meat and their seasoning, or if you want to make this <u>really memorable</u>, use real meat, and set up a card table as a barbecue. See the "props" note.)

	Anyway, first we lay a nice juicy steak on the barbecue. It represents our "Storge" family love because there is always a lot at "steak" when it comes to family love.
Michelle:	What's at steak?
Ken:	Your self-concept, your view of the world, and your trust in people. That's all.
Michelle:	That's huge!
Ken:	"Storge" shapes who you are.
Michelle:	So, how does it spoil?

(Ken moves from his barbecue stance to a position behind the girls, and places his hands on each of their shoulders.)

Ken:	Do you girls ever take each other for granted?
Michelle & Jennifer	:(simultaneously, with different answers) Michelle says, "No," Jennifer says, "Yes."
	(They continue to bicker about it.)
Ken:	See, "Storge" love can be pretty hostile. You've heard it said, "Familiarity breeds contempt."
Jennifer:	What?
Ken:	Okay, what about this one: "Home is where they have to let you in."

(*He rushes out from behind the girls to the down stage area, back to his barbecue, and pantomimes, or actually, sprinkles seasoning on the steak.*)

But, when we sprinkle the qualities of "Agape" love onto "Storge," it keeps our family love from spoiling.

(Ken pantomimes taking out another piece of meat: a chicken. He holds it up by its imaginary (or actual) legs.)

	Our next meat is chicken. It represents "Phileo" love because friends are usually "chicken" to go out and do something by themselves. "Phileo" is a groupie kind of love. It feels stronger if other people are doing the same thing, or wearing the same clothes, or standing for the same thing. "Phileo" bonds are strong!
Mike:	(to Lisa and Bobby) Did you hear that?
	"Phileo" bonds are strong!
	(Lisa and Bobby glare at him.)
	(Ken moves over to stand behind the band.)
Ken:	You're probably wondering what could go wrong with "Phileo."
Bobby:	Not really.
Ken:	"Phileo" can absorb your identity. You can forget who you are apart from the group, and if your group is committed to something evil, you can get sucked right in. "Phileo" can shut people out, too.
Michelle:	See, I told you!
(Ken rushes o	ut from behind the band to the down stage area, back to his barbecue, and

(Ken rushes out from behind the band to the down stage area, back to his barbecue, and pantomimes, or actually, sprinkles seasoning on the chicken.)

Ken:But...when you add "Agape" love to "Phileo" bonds,<br/>you have a human love relationship that will not spoil.

Our last meat is fish!

(All the players react with disgust when Ken lifts up the two fish, complete with heads and tails, either in pantomime or in actuality.)

Fish represents "Eros."

All:	Why? What's the connection? etc.
Ken:	Because something "fishy" is always going on in "Eros" relationships.
Andy:	Hey! What's that supposed to mean?
Ken:	Eros stirs up our passions. We want something or somebody because we think that thing or that person will make us "look good" and make up happy. That's dangerous; only God can fill us up, anyone, or anything, else leaves us empty!
	(Ken moves over to Jan and Andy. They look up at him a bit worried.)
Jan:	(depressed) Don't tell me that "Eros" spoils, too!
Ken:	Oh yes! It spoils quicker than all the others because it is based on something that fades really fast.
Andy:	What?
Ken:	Beauty! How would you feel about Jan, if after you are married, you wake up one morning and suddenly she looks awful to you?
Andy:	That could never happen!
Jan:	Yes it could! Have you seen my Aunt?
Andy:	(to Ken) You should see her Aunt!
Jan:	It runs in the family.
Andy:	Oh no!

(Ken rushes out from behind Jan and Andy to the down stage area, back to his barbecue, and pantomimes sprinkling seasoning on the fish, or he actually does.)

Ken:	But, when we add "Agape" qualities to our "Eros" relationships, we have a well-seasoned love that will be a delight for our entire lives.
Jan:	Thank goodness.
Ken:	(to Jan) No, thank God.
Jan:	I'm still wondering about this "possess the beautiful" thing. You don't mean really possess like own, do you?

	(She casts a worried glance at Andy.)
Ken:	"Eros" collects beautiful things as well as people. Many who fall under the spell of "Eros" think they can't live without a bigger house, a nicer car, a nicer job, or a better relationship.
Jan:	(casting a horrified glance to Andy) A better relationship?
Ken:	(quickly rescuing a bewildered Andy and sprinkling more salt on the fish) Not when God's love seasons "Eros"!
	(Jan relaxes and takes Andy's hand. Andy looks relieved.)
Mike:	How do we find out about these "Agape" qualities you keep mentioning?
Ken:	You study God. He is pure "Agape" love. For example: Galatians 5:22 tells you what the "fruit," or the results of God's love, accomplishes in our lives. You know that the "Fruit of the Spirit" is: love, joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

(They all nod in agreement, as though they had been studying this for years.)

(Ken takes a saltshaker with him, either a real saltshaker, or an imaginary one, and stands behind Jan and Andy.)

Ken:	What fruit of God's Spirit needs to fall (he salts Andy and Jan.) on "Eros"?
Michelle:	Self-control!
Jennifer:	Faithfulness!
Andy:	(taking Jan's hand) Joy!
	(Ken moves over to Michelle and Jennifer and prepares to salt them.)
Ken:	What about "Storge"? What part of God's love does it need?
Lisa:	Patience.
Mike:	Kindness.
Bobby:	Gentleness.
	(Ken moves over to Lisa, Bobby, and Mike and prepares to salt them.)
Ken:	And "Phileo"?

Jan:	Goodness?
Ken:	Yes! If a "Phileo" bond rallies around an evil cause, it can create more human pain than any other type of earthly love. For proof of what happens when "Phileo's" power goes sour, just read today's headlines.
Lisa:	I know another fruit.

(Everyone looks at Lisa with expectation. She extends her hand to Bobby. They shake hands.)

	Peace!
Ken:	You're right. "Peace on earth."
All:	"Good will toward men"
Lisa:	and women.
Mike:	This is a lot to remember.
Ken:	Just remember this, (He opens his Bible again and reads Matthew 5:13)
	( <i>reading</i> ) "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt looses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?"
	(to the class) Salt adds flavor and keeps things from spoiling. God gave us these three earthly loves to make our lives work, but only His love can preserve them.
	(The class small-talks as they exit, thanking Ken for a great class.)
Andy:	(to the rest of the group) So, are you "Storges" and "Phileos" coming to our "Eros" celebration?
All:	Yes what time is the weddingI wouldn't miss it, etc.
Ken:	(Standing alone on the stage as he watches them leave.) Love it's the "spice of life."

# LIGHTS: BLACK OUT

#### The End

# Ken's "Cheat Script"

Place this in his Bible, so he can turn the pages.

	(after kids enter, calm down the band.)
Ken:	You guys working on a Beatles song? Yeah, yeah, yeah
Ken:	Your band was great at the Jr. High study last Thursday night. Those kids just loved you.
	(pause to remember) You know, it doesn't seem like that long ago that you were all kids, but now you're in collegeoff doing your own thing;
	(he turns to Jan and Andy)getting married and stuff.
	(tell them today's topic is love.)
Ken:	I know, I know, but do you really understand how God's "Agape" love is different from the three kinds of "earthly" love?
	(kids review qualities of love)
Ken:	There are four kinds of love; did you know that?
Ken:	(standing behind Jan and Andy.) Your kind of love is called "Eros."
Ken:	"Eros" is a passionate desire to possess whatever you think is beautiful.
Ken:	I mean we are attracted to beautiful people and things with our "Eros" love. It is the strong, romantic love couples feel.
	(Andy puts his arm around Jan.)
	Or the feeling we get when we finally get that car we've been wanting
	(to Bobby) or the new drum set we've been dreaming about.
	(Ken moves over to Michelle and Jennifer. He stands behind them)
	You two, on the other hand, share a love that is called "Storge."

Michelle & Jennifer: "Storge"?

Ken: Yes, "Storge" love is the love shared between family members. It's called the "love of the familiar."

Jennifer:	What do you mean?
Ken:	"Storge" loves you because you are familiar to it. You've lived together so long that you just sort of assume that you love each other; it's a very nice kind of love, but you don't talk about it much do you?
Jennifer:	I guess not.
Ken:	(to Jennifer) Don't you just assume that Michelle loves you?
	(the girls react)
Ken:	See what I mean! "Storge" love is seldom talked about; it's just supposed to be there, so it usually is. It's not a showy, mushy love like "Eros."
	(Ken moves over to where the band is seated.)
Ken:	You three share a love called "Phileo."
Mike:	(to Bobby and Lisa) See, you two share love. There's hope.
Ken:	You share a very powerful love. The most powerful of all three of the earthly loves: "Phileo" love is called friendship!
Band:	(surprised) We do? Really? etc.
Ken:	Phileo love is a love shared by people who have something in common. You all love music, so you have a "Phileo" bond as musicians.
Jan:	Where does "Agape" fit in?
Ken:	"Agape" love is really a way of acting once you are in a family, or in a romantic relationship, or in a friendship. It's also a way of behaving toward people you don't have a relationship with, yet.
Ken:	<ul> <li>(kids are confused)</li> <li>"Agape" love is more like a bunch of good ideas.</li> <li>It means doing the <u>best</u> thing for people, even when you don't know them.</li> <li>(kids are lost)</li> </ul>

Ken:	"Agape" love feeds the hungry, clothes those who need clothing; it gives shelter to the poor; it creates jobs; it visits the lonely; it cheers up the sad. It is a very active love, but it does not necessarily have to have a relationship with the people who receive the "Agape" love.
	(clarify for Lisa)
Ken:	"Agape" love keeps all of our earthly loves from spoiling.
	(kids are still lostintroduce salt as a spice)
Ken:	Right! Without salt, our food is bland, almost tasteless. When God gave "Agape" love to Christians, He commanded us to bring flavor into our relationships and make them so "spicy" that the world would want what we have.
Ken:	<b>Listen.</b> ( <i>He opens his bible to Mt. 5:13a.</i> ) ( <i>reading</i> ) <b>"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, what good is it?</b>
	e to each set of people as you talk about them, then move to back to center for the barbecue. 'It keeps dialogue moving.)
	Storge love = lots at "steak" in family, self-concept. Prevent: taking for grantedno manners "Home is where they have to let you in."
	Phileo love = "Chicken" to act alone, groupie. Absorb identityshut people out Agape seasoning includes others & gives value.
	Eros love = Something "fishy" going ondrives passions Makes us look gooddiscard when it gets ugly. Agape keeps "Eros" alivesee beauty all the time.
	(Jan & Andy comedy with/ auntJan worried about possession)
Ken:	"Eros" collects beautiful things as well as people. Many who fall under the spell of "Eros" think they can't live without a bigger house, a nicer car, a nicer job, or a better relationship.

Mike:	How do we find out about these "Agape" qualities you keep mentioning?
Ken:	You study God. He is pure "Agape" love. For example: Galatians 5:22 tells you what the "fruit," or the results of God's love, accomplishes in our lives. You know that the "Fruit of the Spirit" is: love, joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self- control.
Ken:	What fruit of God's Spirit needs to fall (he salts Andy and Jan.) on "Eros"? (Self control)
Ken:	What about "Storge?" What part of God's love does it need? (Patience, kindness, gentleness)
Ken:	And "Phileo"? (Goodness)
Ken:	Yes! If a "Phileo" bond rallies around an evil cause, it can create more human pain than any other type of earthly love. For proof of what happens when "Phileo's" power goes sour, just read today's headlines. (Lisa brings up "peace")
Ken:	Just remember this, (He opens his Bible again and reads Mt. 5:13) (reading) "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt looses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?" (to the class) Salt adds flavor and keeps things from spoiling. God gave us these three earthly loves to make our lives work, but only His love can preserve them.
Ken:	(Standing alone on the stage as he watches them leave.) Loveit's the "spice of life."

#### The End