

THE LOVE ATTITUDES

by Susan Pargman



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PRODUCTION NOTES

The Easter story tells of a man who lays down his life for his friends. There is no greater love. Lent is a time when we ask ourselves, "How do I respond to God's love?" I think the most definitive place to look is in my favorite chapter of the Bible. I Corinthians 13, "The Love Chapter." Here is where we see not only a picture of God's love toward us, but also a picture of the goals God has laid out for us as his people.

Cast lists, prop lists, and playing times are included before each script. Personalize the dialog as necessary, especially by using your own names. It is best if the scripts can be memorized; however, there are instances where the playbook or a 3 x 5 card with the dialog may be disguised, e.g. on Ruby's muffin box (skit 3), Ed's newspaper and Announcer's "Kind Words" box (skit 4), inside Mary's Bible (skit 6), and so on. If you choose to do this, you must still be expressive and not give the appearance of reading.

I've put together these short skits to remind us of the goals God has for us. "Buying the Past," "Love Is Patient," "Love Does Not Envy," "Love Is Not Rude," "Can We Talk?" and "How Charlie the Dog Was Saved From Certain Death" are humorous in nature, yet deal with an important subject: Our decision to love God, and therefore, to love our neighbor through our actions. I hope the ideas contained here make an impression on the people of God who attend your church. If they cause you to think twice, then a seed has been planted. May God bless you at this most beautiful of all the holidays. He is risen!

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TABLE OF CONTENTS**Burying the Past****Love Is Patient****Love Does Not Envy****Love Is Not Rude****Love Does Not Delight in Evil,
or, Can We Talk?****The Love of God, or, How Charlie the Dog
Was Saved From Certain Death**

First Sunday of Lent

BURYING THE PAST

This is a skit to open the Lenten season. It helps the congregation to begin thinking about the Lenten attitude of self-examination in the light of God's Word.

PLAYING TIME: About 8 minutes.

CHARACTERS: **SPEAKER** — an adult, church leader, youth pastor, or Sunday school teacher; **RANDY** — junior high student; **KIRSTEN** — junior high student.

PROPS: Plant pot, soil (in the pot), gloves, hand spade, packet of seeds, Bible. You may wish to put a piece of plastic on the floor to catch the seeds when they are thrown.

AT RISE: **SPEAKER** comes to front of church where there is a table set with the props mentioned above. I Corinthians 13 is marked for reference in the Bible.

SPEAKER: (*Addressing congregation*) Since we're just now beginning the Lenten season, I'd like to take a few minutes to teach a Sunday school lesson here in church. It's a lesson that helps us to know what Lent is, and it shows us how we can all participate in the spirit of the season. I have asked a couple of volunteers to help me out. Randy and Kirsten, could you join me up here, please? (*RANDY and KIRSTEN join SPEAKER On-stage.*) Now, who would like to wear the garden gloves?

RANDY: I will. I'm a good gardener. (*Boasting*) I've had lots of experience.

SPEAKER: All right. (*Helps him with gloves.*) Randy, you'll be the one who digs in the soil and plants the seeds. (*RANDY slips on gloves and holds up gloved hands like a surgeon going into the operating room.*) Kirsten, would you like to help Randy by opening up the seed packet and handing him the seeds to plant?

KIRSTEN: Well, OK, but I've never planted a seed before. I've

- 1 never even *helped* anyone plant a seed.
- 2 RANDY: (*Chiding her*) You've never planted a seed before?!
- 3 Don't you know anything about gardening?
- 4 KIRSTEN: Well, I know that you're supposed to stick the
- 5 seed into the ground to make it grow.
- 6 SPEAKER: That's right. That's what Randy's going to do.
- 7 You just need to get a seed out of the packet and hand
- 8 it to him.
- 9 KIRSTEN: OK. (*Opens packet, pours seeds into hand.*) Uh-oh.
- 10 SPEAKER: What's the matter?
- 11 KIRSTEN: There aren't any seeds in here. Just a bunch of
- 12 dried up stuff. (*She throws the seeds away, onto the floor.*)
- 13 RANDY: Oh, no! You threw them away!
- 14 KIRSTEN: Threw what away? I just got rid of that old, dead-
- 15 looking brown stuff.
- 16 RANDY: You blew it again, Kirsten. That "old dead-looking
- 17 brown stuff" was the seeds!
- 18 KIRSTEN: You're kidding. They didn't look like seeds.
- 19 SPEAKER: Let me show you. (*Picking up a seed*) You see, this
- 20 is the seed that you bury in the ground, and it grows into
- 21 a beautiful green plant.
- 22 KIRSTEN: But it looks so . . . so . . . uh — it just looks like
- 23 something that died.
- 24 SPEAKER: That's right. And that's why it needs to be buried.
- 25 That's how it grows into a flower. And that's how it makes
- 26 more seeds.
- 27 KIRSTEN: Oh, I see. (*Examining seed closely*) It's pretty
- 28 amazing how a little dried up brown thing can turn into
- 29 something so green and alive.
- 30 RANDY: (*Getting tired of all this talk*) I thought we were
- 31 supposed to learn about Lent. What do seeds and planting
- 32 have to do with Lent?
- 33 SPEAKER: Well, that's what I want to explain. Lent is a
- 34 special time of year when Christians take time out to
- 35 examine themselves.

- 1 **RANDY:** *(Not happy about this)* Like when we take an exam in
 2 school?
- 3 **KIRSTEN:** I hope not. I haven't had a chance to study!
- 4 **SPEAKER:** No, it isn't like that at all. Lent is a time when you
 5 think about how you've been acting. You pray and ask
 6 God to show you if you might have some bad habits or
 7 faults you should get rid of.
- 8 **KIRSTEN:** But what about the seeds? What does Lent have
 9 to do with planting seeds?
- 10 **RANDY:** *(A know-it-all attitude)* "Lent" is probably an ancient
 11 Greek word meaning "farmer" or "master horticultur-
 12 alist." *(Obviously referring to himself)*
- 13 **SPEAKER:** Actually, it's believed that the word comes from
 14 the German word "Lenz," meaning the time when the
 15 days lengthen.
- 16 **RANDY:** I figured it was something like that.
- 17 **SPEAKER:** Now, about the seeds. They look so dried up and
 18 lifeless. Let's think about our bad habits and faults as
 19 being like these seeds. If we just hold on to them, they
 20 never become anything. They just clutter up our lives.
 21 But if we take the time to bury them, like at Lent, then
 22 they truly die, and that's when a surprising new life can
 23 spring forth. That's what the season of Lent is all about:
 24 new life in Christ.
- 25 **RANDY:** Gee, that'll be easy for me. I don't have any bad
 26 habits. This Lent business is a cinch.
- 27 **KIRSTEN:** I'm not sure about how to do that. How do I know
 28 if I have bad habits?
- 29 **SPEAKER:** Everyone has ways they can improve.
- 30 **RANDY:** Everyone?
- 31 **SPEAKER:** Everyone! And God's Word is the perfect place to
 32 go to find out ways you can improve. For instance, let's
 33 look in I Corinthians 13. *(Turns pages in Bible.)* This is what
 34 some people call "The Love Chapter." Jesus told us that
 35 the most important commandment of them all was to love.

1 **To love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. Randy,**
2 **would you read this section for us? We can think about**
3 **ways we might be able to improve in the light of God's**
4 **Word.**

5 **RANDY:** *(Taking Bible)* **I'd be glad to.** *(As he reads this, he starts*
6 *out proudly, as if describing his own fine character. When he*
7 *gets to "it does not boast," he begins to be convicted of his behavior*
8 *toward KIRSTEN. As he finishes up, we see a more humble*
9 *RANDY.)* **Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy,**
10 **it does not . . . boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is**
11 **not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no**
12 **record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but**
13 **rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts,**
14 **always hopes, always perseveres.** *(I Corinthians 13:4-7)*

15 **KIRSTEN:** **Wow, those are pretty awesome goals. I don't**
16 **think I can do all of those things.**

17 **SPEAKER:** **Nobody is an overnight success. It takes time**
18 **and prayer and God working in our lives to achieve goals**
19 **like those.**

20 **RANDY:** **I think you're right about what you said. Everyone**
21 **has room for improvement.**

22 **SPEAKER:** **And that's what the Lenten season is for.**

23 **KIRSTEN:** **Can we plant those seeds now? I'm anxious to see**
24 **them grow.**

25 **RANDY:** *(Takes off gloves.)* **Here, Kirsten. Why don't you do it?**

26 **KIRSTEN:** **But I don't know how.**

27 **RANDY:** **It's easy. I'll help you. Just dig a little hole.** *(She does*
28 *it as he describes.)* **Now drop in the seeds. Sprinkle some**
29 **soil on top, and tap it down. You did it. Now all that's left**
30 **is to water them and watch them grow.**

31 **KIRSTEN:** **Thanks, Randy. That wasn't hard at all.**

32 **SPEAKER:** **From burying that seed, a beautiful new life is**
33 **going to emerge. You can't see it right now, but in time,**
34 **this seed will turn into a tall green plant with leaves and**
35 **a blossom so beautiful, you'll know that only God could**

1 have made it happen. Let's pray: Lord, please help us to
2 examine ourselves today, and in the weeks to come. Help
3 us to know how we might give up some of our bad habits
4 and become more like you in all that we do and say. We
5 thank you now in Jesus' name. Amen. *(Follow up with a*
6 *hymn or song of repentance.)*
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8 Children's Sunday school can follow up by planting seeds in
9 paper cups.
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Second Sunday of Lent

LOVE IS PATIENT

The second presentation for the Lenten season deals with the attitude of patience. Lent is traditionally a time for giving up bad habits and wrong attitudes. As we give up selfish attitudes, we put on selflessness. Patience is a way to practice selflessness and love for others. And love is what being a Christian is all about.

PLAYING TIME: About 5 minutes.

CHARACTERS: Mrs. Hartmen, Sunday school TEACHER; fourth or fifth grade Sunday School CLASS; CHERYL, a member of the class; KEVIN, class member; AMY, class member.

AT RISE: Children assemble on steps or risers in front of the church. Piano or guitar begins with intro. Children sing a song on the theme of patience. Suggested song: "In His Time" by Diane Ball, copyright © Marantha Music, P.O. Box 1396, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. KIDS PRAISE is a series of popular sing-along Christian tapes for children. Tape number two in this series, "The Joyfulliest Noise," contains the song "In His Time." These tapes, manufactured by Word, Inc. may be purchased at many Christian bookstores, including Family Bookstores (Zondervan) for approximately \$10.00 each.

CLASS: (*Recites*) Love is patient, Love is kind. First Corinthians thirteen, verse four.

TEACHER: Very good, class. You're dismissed. (*They don't leave, but a whole group of them raise their hands calling the teacher's name, saying "I have a question," "I want to say something," etc. TEACHER is surprised at this behavior.*) Do you have a question, Cheryl?

CHERYL: I just want to know, Mrs. Hartmen, what does "patient" really mean?

CLASS: (*Ad-lib*) Yeah, that's what I was going to ask. What does patient mean, anyway? (*Etc.*)

- 1 **TEACHER:** Patient? Well, I guess it's sort of like when you
2 have to wait for something.
- 3 **KEVIN:** Like when I have to wait for the school bus?
- 4 **AMY:** Or waiting in line at the grocery store?
- 5 **TEACHER:** Yes — it's kind of like that.
- 6 **CHERYL:** (*Decidedly*) Then I don't want to be patient, because
7 I don't like to have to wait.
- 8 **TEACHER:** (*Trying to figure this out*) Well, patience isn't just
9 waiting. It's . . . what you do *when* you're waiting.
- 10 **KEVIN:** When I wait for the school bus, I play with my friends.
- 11 **AMY:** When I have to wait in line, I like to talk with people
12 around me.
- 13 **CHERYL:** Does that mean that being patient means you have
14 to find something else to do when you're waiting? I don't
15 think I like that either.
- 16 **TEACHER:** (*Taking a big breath*) How can I explain this?
17 (*Thinks of an idea.*) Let's say you're playing with a puzzle.
18 Now that puzzle takes time to do. You don't just throw
19 it all together at once, do you? You have to be patient.
- 20 **CHERYL:** I hate puzzles.
- 21 **TEACHER:** Well, maybe that wasn't such a great example.
22 (*Trying again*) Let's pretend you're going on a trip with
23 your family. You're taking a vacation to Lake Arrowhead
24 and it's way up in the mountains. So you have to go really
25 slowly up the winding mountain roads, slowly, slowly
26 climbing, little by little . . .
- 27 **CHERYL:** Stop! Stop! I get car sick! Now I'm sure I don't want
28 to be patient!
- 29 **TEACHER:** But, Cheryl, being patient is a wonderful
30 blessing.
- 31 **CHERYL:** Sure doesn't sound like it to me!
- 32 **TEACHER:** God wants us to learn to be patient and strong
33 when things don't seem to be going the way we want
34 them to. God himself is patient with us. And he wants us
35 to be patient with others in the same way. That's how we

- 1 learn to be as kind and loving as our Heavenly Father.
- 2 **CHERYL:** But I still don't see what good it is to just wait
- 3 around sometimes.
- 4 **TEACHER:** Let me give you one more example. Let's say
- 5 you're in Sunday school and the teacher is trying to teach
- 6 you a lesson on what it means to be patient. Let's say you
- 7 just don't get it, so you keep on asking questions. Now,
- 8 without patience, the teacher may just give up.
- 9 **CHERYL:** But if she's patient, then she won't?
- 10 **TEACHER:** If she's patient, and the lesson is important
- 11 enough, she'll keep on trying until you understand. And
- 12 that's one way she shows you that she loves you.
- 13 **CHERYL:** *(The light is dawning.)* I think I get it now. And I
- 14 think that being patient is a good thing after all. Thanks,
- 15 Mrs. Hartmen, for being patient with me. *(Gives TEACHER*
- 16 a hug.)
- 17 **TEACHER:** *(To the CLASS)* Let's say our memory verse one
- 18 more time.
- 19 **CLASS:** Love is patient, Love is kind. First Corinthians
- 20 Thirteen, verse four. *(And/or: Invite congregation to sing "In*
- 21 His Time" *[or other song about patience] with children. All exit.)*
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Third Sunday of Lent **LOVE DOES NOT ENVY**

PLAYING TIME: About 3 minutes.

CHARACTERS: RUBY, NADINE.

PROPS: Box of muffin mix, bowl, spoon, cup of water, table, dish towel, bath towel.

COSTUMES: Regular clothes plus an apron for RUBY, a robe for NADINE. (She should also be barefoot.)

NOTE: The person who plays RUBY needs a sense of comic timing to pull this skit off well. She has to display a growing change in attitude with body language, facial expression, and voice. At the same time, she needs to show us her hypocrisy, and yet show us she is unaware of that hypocrisy. This is best done by "understanding" RUBY, then trying to convince the audience that she actually has a point in what she's saying, although what she's saying is so obviously ridiculous the audience will laugh at the fact that RUBY seems to believe in what she is saying. Perhaps then we may see a little bit of the hypocrisy that we operate under every day ourselves.

SETTING: Table Downstage Left. On the table is a large bowl, spoon, box of muffin mix, apron, dish towel, and measuring cup with water. This is RUBY's kitchen. Downstage Right is NADINE's front porch. This needs no props.

AT RISE: RUBY enters from Upstage Left. She is in good spirits. Perhaps she hums an easily recognizable hymn. She approaches table from behind, dons apron, then surveys the table as if making sure that everything she needs is there. Picks up box. Reads instructions on the back of the box. Follows instructions as she goes. (If possible, RUBY should actually mix up the recipe to create more interest.)

RUBY: (*Reading box*) **Preheat oven to 350 degrees.** (*She pantomimes doing so.*) **Empty mix into large mixing bowl.** (*Does it.*) **Add one cup of water all at once.** (*Does it.*) **This is**

1 **pretty easy.** (*Reading*) **Mix batter just until moistened. Do**
 2 **not overmix.** (*She sings a favorite hymn to herself and mixes*
 3 *to the beat, then reads again.*) **Pour batter into lightly**
 4 **greased muffin pan.** (*Starts to look around — no muffin pan.*
 5 *Looks in cabinets under table — no muffin pan.*) **Now where**
 6 **is that muffin pan? I know I used to have a muffin pan.**
 7 **I wonder where I put it? Oh, dear . . . I guess it's just not**
 8 **here.** (*Stops looking.*) **What am I going to do now?** (*Looks at*
 9 *bowl of batter.*) **I could pour it into a cake pan and bake**
 10 **it, but I really wanted to make it into muffins.**
 11 **Hmmm . . . maybe Nadine has a muffin pan I could**
 12 **borrow. Yeah, I'll go on over to Nadine's house real quick**
 13 **and see if I can borrow her pan.** (*RUBY removes her apron,*
 14 *wipes hands, starts to leave, then stops.*)

15 **But what if she has guests? She's always got**
 16 **somebody over at her house and I hate to just barge in**
 17 **when she has guests . . . But, then again, if I was over**
 18 **there and I was her guest, I wouldn't mind if somebody**
 19 **came over just to borrow a pan.** (*Starts to go again, then*
 20 *stops. Starts to feel suspicious of her neighbor.*) **But then again,**
 21 **I never do get invited over to Nadine's house as a guest.**
 22 **She's always asking friends over to play cards and**
 23 **Pictionary and sit around in that hot tub of hers, but she**
 24 **never asks me over . . .** (*Waving off her suspicions*) **But then**
 25 **again, maybe it's because she knows that I don't really**
 26 **like playing games very much. And I told her I don't really**
 27 **care for hot tubs because the water irritates my skin so**
 28 **awfully much.** (*Starts to go again, then stops. We see the*
 29 *growing suspicion in RUBY's face and hear it in her voice.*)

30 **It was ever since she got that hot tub that she started**
 31 **acting so downright uppity. People with hot tubs are like**
 32 **that. They think that just because they have a hot tub,**
 33 **that makes them better than anybody else.** (*Feeling just a*
 34 *little more tense, speaking just a little bit louder*) **They think**
 35 **that having a hot tub puts them in a class higher than all**

1 **the rest of us.** (*More tense, louder*) **They think that people**
 2 **who don't have hot tubs just aren't as good as they are!**
 3 **I can see where no *real* Christian would even own a hot**
 4 **tub. And to think that that Nadine has the nerve to teach**
 5 **Sunday school and call herself a Christian! Well, I'm going**
 6 **over there right now and give her a piece of my mind.**
 7 (*Pantomimes marching out of her house and to NADINE's front*
 8 *porch. She knocks vehemently. No one answers.*) **No one**
 9 **answering the door. Probably *entertaining* guests. It**
 10 **figures.** (*RUBY knocks again, then NADINE comes to the door*
 11 *in her robe, barefoot, wiping her face with a towel. She has just*
 12 *come out of the tub.*)

13 **NADINE:** (*Pleasantly*) **Oh, hello, Ruby. Sorry it took me so long**
 14 **to answer the door. I was just soaking in the . . .**

15 **RUBY:** **And another thing! For all I care you can just keep**
 16 **your lousy muffin pan! I wouldn't borrow a pan from you**
 17 **if you were the last person on earth!** (*RUBY exits pompously.*
 18 *NADINE stands dumbfounded and confused. Freeze.*)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

LOVE IS NOT RUDE

PLAYING TIME: About 5 minutes.

CHARACTERS: PASTOR; ANNOUNCER; ED — the husband;
DENISE — the wife.

PROPS: Chair, newspaper, weird wig, box labeled "Gentle Answers," some 3 x 5 cards.

SETTING: The ANNOUNCER enters from Stage Left and exits same side. We need only a minimal set representing a living room. Ask your church pianist or organist to improvise music where indicated. The PASTOR sets up the scene from the pulpit.

At the time the PASTOR would normally begin his sermon he says something like this:

PASTOR: In a moment, we'll begin our sermon for this morning, but first a word from our sponsor. (*PASTOR steps down. Commercial-style music begins. ED takes his place in the chair Center Stage and reads newspaper held up in front of his face. He freezes in position. ANNOUNCER enters Stage Left, talks directly to audience.*)

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. Have you been frustrated lately? Has it seemed as if everything you said or did ended up in a big argument? Has your life looked something like . . . *this*? (*ANNOUNCER sweeps hand toward Center Stage, indicating ED in chair. MUSIC: Trill on piano up the scale. ANNOUNCER leaves scene off Stage Left.*)

DENISE: (*Enter from right. She wears a horrible looking wig of some sort — use your imagination!*) Well, Ed, I've just spent six hours in the beauty parlor and half a week's salary for my new hairdo. What do you think?

ED: (*Lowers newspaper; looks at DENISE in horror.*) You've got to be kidding! You spent money for that? The bride of Frankenstein looks like Miss America next to that pompadour! (*DENISE is shattered; she runs from the stage*)

- 1 crying. *ED to audience*) What'd I say? I just told her the
2 truth!
- 3 **ANNOUNCER:** (*Walks into scene carrying box labeled "Gentle*
4 *Answers."*) You should have tried "Gentle Answers"; the
5 words are guaranteed to soothe and refresh.
- 6 **ED:** (*Standing, talks to ANNOUNCER.*) But it's too late. I've
7 already told her what I thought of her hair.
- 8 **ANNOUNCER:** It's never too late to try "Gentle Answers."
9 Just apply a few of these carefully formulated words to
10 any situation, and you're guaranteed to improve
11 relations or your money back.
- 12 **ED:** (*Takes several cards out of the box; he is doubtful.*) Well, I
13 suppose it couldn't hurt to give it a try . . .
- 14 **ANNOUNCER:** That's right. "Gentle Answers" will never let
15 you down. They're the words guaranteed to turn away
16 wrath. (*ANNOUNCER exits as ED sifts through the 3 x 5 cards*
17 *with various things written on them.*)
- 18 **ED:** Let's see here. Maybe there are some good ones I can
19 use . . . Ho, that wouldn't do . . . This one is pretty good,
20 but . . . Oh, I've got to remember this one next time she
21 brings up that famous Tuna Surprise she makes. (*He stuffs*
22 *that card in his shirt pocket.*) Yes! This is the one. This will
23 be perfect. I'll try it. Hey, Denise! Denise, could you come
24 in here for a minute? I need to tell you something. It's
25 really important. (*He hides the card in his hand so he can*
26 *refer to it as they talk. He puts the rest of the cards under the*
27 *chair.*)
- 28 **DENISE:** (*Enters from right, still looking hurt.*) Don't you think
29 you've said enough? I already know what you think of
30 my hairdo — you hate it. (*Melodramatically*) Oh, I feel like
31 such a fool!
- 32 **ED:** (*He glances at the card now and then while he talks.*) But
33 Honey, I'm the one who should feel like a fool, shooting
34 off my mouth like I did. I only hope you can forgive me.
- 35 **DENISE:** (*Surprised*) What do you mean?

- 1 ED: When I saw you walk in here with that new hair style,
2 all I could think of was that the beautician just didn't do
3 you justice.
- 4 DENISE: She didn't?
- 5 ED: No. You're such a beautiful woman, and that hair style
6 doesn't do enough to bring out your naturally lovely
7 features.
- 8 DENISE: It doesn't?
- 9 ED: It sure doesn't. I was thinking that something a little
10 less...uh...well...less...*curly* might be more your
11 style.
- 12 DENISE: (*Touching hair*) I see what you mean. Maybe I could
13 work with it a little to make it a little less...uh...
- 14 ED: Less curly?
- 15 DENISE: Yes. Less curly. Thanks, Honey.
- 16 ED: I don't know how I could have been so thoughtless to
17 speak to you the way I did. Can you forgive me?
- 18 DENISE: Sure I can. I forgive you. (*Gives him a kiss.*) Say, why
19 don't we go see what we can cook up for dinner? How
20 about my famous Tuna Surprise? We haven't had that for
21 a long time.
- 22 ED: Are you kidding? That stuff tastes like... I mean, (*Takes*
23 *card out of pocket and refers to it.*) I'm not really in the mood
24 for seafood tonight. Why don't we try that new little
25 Italian place on Central Avenue?
- 26 DENISE: OK. I've been wondering how the food is there. (*ED*
27 *and DENISE exit Upstage Left. ANNOUNCER enters*
28 *Downstage.*)
- 29 ANNOUNCER: (*Holds up the box labeled "Gentle Answers" near*
30 *face, toward audience.*) Remember folks, "Gentle
31 Answers" — the words guaranteed to turn away wrath
32 the first time — every time. (*Music up. ANNOUNCER exits.*)
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Fifth Sunday of Lent
LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL,
or, CAN WE TALK?

PLAYING TIME: About 6 minutes.

CHARACTERS: JOE, PAUL, BILL.

PROPS: Three folding chairs, fishing poles, bait boxes, etc.

SETTING: The Great Outdoors. Three men are out on a fishing trip. (Put up a couple of potted plants to represent being outside.)

AT RISE: JOE, PAUL and BILL enter and set up their folding chairs and equipment Downstage Center. They fish off the edge of the stage. They chat as they set up.

PAUL: This looks like a good spot to me. What do you think?

BILL: Sure.

JOE: A little sun, a little shade, I think it'll be just right.

BILL: This is so great. I love getting out in nature. It's so relaxing to take a little time off work just to sit around with your friends, catch a few fish, and breathe in some fresh mountain air.

JOE: I usually go camping with my wife and kids each year, but this time I decided just to take some time out on my own.

PAUL: A man needs some space sometimes.

JOE: You'd better believe it! *(They bait their hooks and start fishing.)* Yup, this is the life. *(There's a long pause as they fish.)*

PAUL: So, how are things going with you, Joe?

JOE: *(He is uncomfortably silent for awhile, then)* Not so well.

PAUL: *(Sincerely concerned)* What's wrong? Is it something at work?

JOE: No, everything at work's fine. In fact, I love going to work. It's going home at the end of the day that's so bad.

PAUL: I didn't know. Is there something I can do to help?

JOE: Oh, no. It's just my terrible temper. I seem to be OK at the office. I mean, I can handle all the problems that come



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LOVE ATTITUDES

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