

Do You Measure Up?

By

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Theme:

This play conveys God's love for us and His acceptance of us regardless of the flaws and worthless attributes we possess.

Biblical Reference:

1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Props:

Lunch trays with lunches on them
Table and chairs

Note:

The names of the characters in the play can be changed to the names of the actors.

Cast of Characters:

Beth: A Christian teenager. She's not afraid to share the truth of God's word to others and is always looking for an opportunity to do so.

Josh: A Christian teenager. He's not afraid to share the truth of God's word to others and is always looking for an opportunity to do so.

Rachel: A teenager who is very vain. Her looks mean everything to her. She is heavily made up, her hair is always perfect, her clothes reflect the latest style, and she is ready to sling insults at everyone who doesn't meet her high standards.

Andrew: A teenager who is the epitome of a jock. His letterman jacket, perfect hair, and well-muscled body attract the teenage girls like a magnet. It is obvious he scores higher in muscle count than IQ.

Tina: A teenager who gets her self-worth by hanging out with her friends. She's always a break-up from the edge of life. She depends on her friend's acceptance of her. Her dependence is visible.

Brian: A teenager who looks no farther than which big party he's attending this weekend. He's a jock too, but not because he's strong. His slim frame provides him with agility

10 more kids who are the object of the teens jeers.

1: A teenager who has acne.

2: A teenager who is overweight.

3: A teenager who is poorly dressed.

4: A teenager who is extraordinarily tall.

5: A teenager who is sporting bad hair.

6: A teenager who acts as a skater dude.

7: A teenager who is perceived as a brain.

8: A teenager who is perceived as a momma's boy.

9: A teenager who is short.

10: A teenager who is new at school.

Scene:

[The stage is set as a school lunch room. A table is set at center stage with six chairs around it. All of the students need to enter from stage left and exit stage right. Rachel enters with a lunch tray and sits at the table. Andrew enters with a lunch tray and sits at the table.]

Andrew: Hey Rachel. How's your day going?

Rachel: Okay, I guess. I had a tough math test, but I think I passed it.

Andrew: What are you studying in math?

Rachel: It's a Calculus class.

Andrew: Wow, that's pretty advanced. I didn't know you were in that tough a math class.

Rachel: It's really hard, but my guidance counselor said it would really help me out in college.

[Tina enters with a lunch tray and sits at the table.]

Andrew: Well I sure hope you passed the test. *[To Tina.]* Hey Tina.

Rachel: How did you do on the math test?

Tina: It was a piece of cake.

Rachel: You can't be serious.

Tina: No, it was so easy I'm sure I aced it.

Andrew: You're in her calculus class?

Tina: Yep.

Andrew: Man, I can't believe it.

Tina: Why can't you believe it?

Andrew: I didn't think you guys were that smart.

Rachel: Well, it's not like we're brains or anything like that.

[Brian enters with a lunch tray and sits at the table.]

Tina: I can't believe you would think that.

Andrew: Hey Brian.

Tina: Brian, how did you do on the math test?

Brian: I hate math.

Rachel: See? I told you it was a tough test.

Tina: Maybe I didn't do as well as I thought.

Andrew: You're in their math class?

Brian: Yeah.

Andrew: Oh man, why didn't anybody tell me I had to be in the class too?

Brian: You're not missing anything. It's a really tough class. I'm thinking of dropping it 'cause it might keep me from making track in the spring.

Andrew: Then I'm glad I'm not taking the class.

[The first kid, the one with acne, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Tina's line begins as soon as she sees him/her enter.]

Tina: Hey guys, check out that kid over there.

Brian: Oh man, look at the acne on his face.

Andrew: You'd think he didn't know what Clearasil is for.

Rachel: I'm glad I don't, like, have his problem.

Tina: That's for sure. If I had a face like that I wouldn't show it in school.

Rachel: Me either.

Brian: I bet you gotta eat like chocolate and french fries all day long to get a face like that.

[The second kid, the one who is overweight, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Tina's line begins as soon as she sees him/her enter.]

Tina: There's another kid I wouldn't want to be.

Brian: Talk about eating french fries and chocolate all day long.

Andrew: It looks like that guy never stops eating.

Rachel: I don't know what I'd do if I looked like that!

Tina: Me either.

Rachel: I mean, like, forget it!

Brian: I'd have to drop out of sports.

Tina: Like, you wouldn't even make it into sports.

[Beth and Josh enter one right behind the other. They look for a table.]

Andrew: Check out those two geeks.

Tina: Those two call themselves Christians.

Rachel: Can you believe it?

Brian: Get a real life.

[Beth and Josh approach Brian and Andrew.]

Josh: Is it all right if we sit with you guys?

Brian: No.

Beth: *[Looking around the lunch room.]* Come on. It looks like the rest of the tables are filled. Just let us sit here this once - we won't bother you again.

Tina: *[With a mischievous smile.]* Sure you can sit with us.

Rachel: *[Catching a glimpse of Tina's plan to embarrass them.]* Yeah, we'd be happy to have you sit here.

[Josh and Beth sit down.]

Josh: Thanks a lot!

[The third kid, the one who is poorly dressed, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Tina's line begins as soon as she sees him/her enter.]

Tina: Oh guys, check out that guy. Can you believe that he'd be seen wearing stuff like that in school?

Rachel: Not me, I can tell you that much.

Andrew: I wouldn't be caught dead dressed like that.

Brian: What does he shop at the Salvation Army or something?

Tina: I don't think he shops. Those are probably hand-me-downs that have been around longer than we've been alive.

Rachel: It's time to bury them. They are so disgusting.

[Josh and Beth take note of the criticisms but decide not to interrupt them. The fourth kid, the one who is extraordinarily tall, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Tina's line begins as soon as she sees him/her enter.]

Tina: Oh, man, check out that guy. Look how tall he is.

Rachel: *[As if calling up to him.]* What's the weather like up there?

Brian: It's too bad he's not coordinated enough to be on the basketball team, 'cause he's big enough to do really well.

Andrew: Yeah, but he stinks at basketball. He can't even dribble. I mean, what's the point of being that tall if you can't play basketball?

Brian: It's like missing your calling.

Tina: There like isn't anything else he could do, is there?

Rachel: I can't think of anything else a tall kid like that can do.

Brian: It's too bad.

[Josh and Beth take note of the criticisms but decide not to interrupt them. The fifth kid, the one who has a bad haircut, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Tina's line begins as soon as she sees him/her enter.]

Tina: Oh man, are we having a bad hair day or what?

Rachel: Who, me?

Tina: No, that guy over there.

Rachel: Oh man, you're right.

[They giggle.]

Josh: I've had enough of this.

Brian: What?

Josh: I can't just sit here and listen to you pick on everyone who walks by the table.

Beth: Is this what you do every day?

Andrew: What?

Josh: Sit here and point out the weak points of everyone who comes out of that door?

Brian: *[Proud of the fact.]* Pretty much.

Josh: Well, I've had enough of it.

Andrew: Oooh. What are you gonn'a do about it?

Brian: So get up and leave.

Josh: I'm not going to leave.

Andrew: I thought you said you weren't going to sit here anymore.

Josh: I said that I can't just sit here and listen to you pick on everyone. I'm not going to leave, I'm going to tell you how you're wrong.

Tina: I can't believe you.

Rachel: This ought to be good.

[The sixth kid, the skater dude, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Josh's line begins as soon as he sees him/her enter.]

Josh: Look at that guy over there. I suppose you're going to pick on him because he's a skater dude, right?

Brian: That's the general idea.

Andrew: I mean just look at him. He thinks that his skateboard is all that he needs in life.

Tina: It's like all he ever does.

Rachel: He doesn't have, like, a real life.

Josh: Like you?

Rachel: Well, yeah.

Beth: Are you telling me that sitting at lunch and diss'n your classmates is a life?

[No answer. To Brian and Andrew.]

Beth: Are you telling me that his love for skateboarding is any different than your love for sports?

Josh: The only difference I see here is that you're sitting here picking on them and they're not sitting at their table picking on you.

Beth: Well, maybe they are, you don't know they aren't.

Josh: That's right.

Tina: You mean they could be sitting at their table picking on us?

Rachel: They wouldn't have anything to pick on us for.

Tina: There's nothing wrong with us.

Beth: Oh, that's not true.

Josh: No one is perfect. There is something wrong with each one of us. Whether it's on the inside or on the outside.

Beth: Even those who are beautiful have some sort of a flaw.

[The seventh kid, the brain, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Josh's line begins as soon as he sees him/her enter.]

Josh: Look at [name] over there. You'll probably pick on him because he's a brain and not all that popular, right?

Tina: I sure would.

Rachel: It's obvious.

Josh: Well I'd say you should appreciate him for his intelligence.

Beth: Don't just pick on him because he's smarter than you are.

Josh: Maybe if you got to know him he'd be willing to help you out with your schoolwork.

Brian: Are you saying that I'm dumb?

Josh: Would you say that you're as smart as he is?

Brian: No.

Josh: Then I'm saying that he can probably help you out.

Rachel: Why do you care what we say about other kids?

Tina: Yeah, why do you think you're so different?

Josh: We're different because we're Christians.

Beth: Do you realize that God made man in His image?

Josh: And that he made us with our own little quirks?

Beth: With our faults?

Josh: And our strong points?

Beth: But yet he still loves us and accepts us as if there was nothing wrong with us.

Josh: He doesn't sit up in heaven and pick on us for our weaknesses. He's willing to love us despite our problems, despite the things we do wrong, and He's willing to accept us into His family no matter how we look, how much we know, who we're friends with, or how popular we are.

Tina: [*Not caring what her friends think.*] Are you saying that God loves us no matter what we're like on the outside?

Beth: Or the inside. He knows there are times when we're all lonely and afraid. He knows that we often pick on others because we see ourselves in them, or because we see that they have strengths we wish we had.

Rachel: [*Following Tina's lead.*] He still loves us even though He knows what we're really like?

Josh: God loves you so much that He sent His son to earth to die for you so that you can go to heaven when you die.

Beth: The Bible says that there is no love greater than someone who is willing to lay their life down for a friend.

Tina: Wow.

[The eighth kid, the momma's boy, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Rachel's line begins as soon as he sees him/her enter.]

Rachel: So you're telling me that God loves that guy even though he's a weakling and a momma's boy?

Beth: Not only does He love that guy, but He also looks for the good points in him and builds him up through them.

Rachel: So that's probably something we're supposed to do too.

Josh: That's right. We're supposed to build one another up, not tear each other down.

Brian: So, you're saying that we should be sitting here finding good things to say about these geeks as they come into the lunch room?

Josh: That's what I'm saying.

Andrew: And what if I don't.

Beth: Would you like it if they were sitting over there saying bad things about you?

Andrew: No.

Beth: Then you shouldn't be doing it to them.

Tina: What goes around comes around.

Beth: You could say that.

Josh: I was thinking more like what the Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

[The ninth kid, the short one, enters and looks for a table. He/she hesitates, walks past the table, hesitates, and exits. Rachel's line begins as soon as he sees him/her enter.]

Rachel: See that short kid that just came into the lunch room?

Beth: Yeah.

Tina: What kind of good things can we say about him?

Andrew: *[Laughing at him.]* Yeah, look at how short he is.

Brian: *[Joining in.]* He's got to look up to tie his shoes.

Josh: It's not his fault he's short. That's the way that God made him.

Beth: How do you think he feels about being short?

Andrew: He probably wishes he was taller.

Beth: And what can he do to make himself taller?

Brian: I don't know. Grow?

Josh: And how can he do that?

Tina: He can't. I can't believe you guys. You're so rude and insensitive. Like I know what he means. No matter how much make up I put on, no matter how much time I put into my hair, I'm still just as pretty underneath it all. I can't change how I look any more than he can change how tall he is. It's not fair for us to pick on him just because he's short.

Rachel: [*To Andrew and Brian.*] I wish the two of you would catch on to what he's saying. [*To Josh and Beth.*] So, what should we do to make things right?

Beth: Start treating others as you would like them to treat you. If you want them to treat you with disrespect, then treat them with disrespect, but if you want them to respect you, then you have to respect them.

Josh: Remember, God loves you no matter what you're like. You have to love others regardless of what they're like.

[*The tenth kid, the one who is new at school, enters and looks for a table. Rachel's line begins as soon as he sees him/her enter.*]

Rachel: Look, there's that new kid. What should we do?

Tina: Let's invite him to sit with us so that we can get to know him.

Andrew: Yeah.

Beth: [*To Andrew.*] You mean, so that you can find out what you pick on him for?

Andrew: No. I mean, so that we can find out how cool he is.

Brian: [*To Andrew.*] You mean you're willing to invite him over here without picking on him?

Tina: [*Standing up to get his/her attention.*] Hey over here. We have room over here.

[*The new kid makes his/her way over the table.*]

Andrew: [*Getting up. To Brian.*] Come on. We've got some apologizing to do.

[*Brian and Andrew exit. The rest get up and exit talking, getting to know their new friend.*]

- CURTAIN -

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