

What's Your Word?

By

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Theme:

This play encourages people to become involved in Sunday School. A small group of kids who are dissatisfied with the way that their Sunday School class is run are confronted by a parent who is able to change their attitudes through the insight that he adds.

Biblical Reference:

Ephesians 4:21-24

Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Approximate Running Time:

10-15 minutes

Props:

A child sized table and five chairs
Mr. Jones needs to have a watch on his wrist

Cast of Characters:

Beth: Beth is an adorable, well dressed, grade school aged young lady who attends Sunday School just to make her look good. She understands that if she appears the way that her parents want her to appear they will be pleased with her. She gains satisfaction in pleasing her parents.

Rachel: Rachel is an adorable, well dressed, grade school aged young lady who is used to getting everything that she wants.

Josh: Josh is a little boy who knows a lot about everything. His knowledge is a point that his parents brag about daily. He realizes that his parents like to brag about him which drives him to learn even more.

Evan: Evan is a young man who believes in God but believes that church is a social experience. He attends church so that he can be around the "good" kids.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Jones is Evan's father. He should be dressed in casual clothes that would be appropriate for a Sunday morning service. He loves children and looks for opportunities to tell them about Jesus.

Notes:

The names of the characters can be changed to match those of the actors.

This play was written for adult or teenage actors to act like first grade children. Their manner of dress, their speech, and their actions should portray those of a third grade aged boy or girl.

A funny child-like voice may be a good idea as well.

Scene:

At center stage there is a child sized table with five chairs situated around it so that all are facing the audience. As the play opens, Beth, Rachel, and Josh are sitting at the table talking amongst themselves. Mr. Jones and Evan enter and act as a parent and child would as the child is being led into their Sunday School room.

Mr. Jones: Hello boys and girls.

Beth: Hello Mr. Jones.

Rachel: Hello Evan.

Evan: [*Joining them around the table.*] Hi guys.

Mr. Jones: Where is Mrs. Simpson?

Josh: She isn't here yet.

Mr. Jones: Well, I guess I'll just stay with you until she gets here.

[*Mr. Jones joins the kids at the table. He should have the smallest chair at the table.*]

Evan: What are we gonna' do Dad?

Mr. Jones: It looks like we have some time to share with each other. I've got an idea. Why don't we go around the table and share one word that describes Sunday School.

Beth: What do you want us to do?

Mr. Jones: I want us to take turns telling each other about Sunday School and I only want you to use one word. Do you think that you can do that?

Rachel: Why do you want to do that, Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones: Because we have a few minutes to spend and because I think that we would all learn from the experience.

Josh: I think that sounds like a great idea.

Mr. Jones: How about you, Rachel? Do you want to play along with us?

Rachel: You have got to be kidding me. Why would I want to play your silly game?

Josh: Don't you think that you're bein' rude to Mr. Jones?

Rachel: [*Pretending to compose herself.*] I'm sorry. Yes, Mr. Jones, I'd love to play your little game. [*Turning to Josh. Aside.*] Just so that you'll keep quiet. [*Turing back to Mr. Jones. Breaking from her composed facade.*] My word is "boring." Sunday School is boring. Just like this game is boring. [*She emphasizes boring each time that she says it.*] I mean, all we do is sit around and talk about old people from the Bible. What could be more boring? I mean there are about a million other things that I could be doing that would be more fun than coming to church and bein' bored out of my mind. I could go shopping, I could sit at home and watch cartoons, I could play with my barbie dolls, I could call my friends on the phone, I could read some of my books, I could...

Beth: Are you through yet?

Rachel: Yes, I suppose I am through with this boring game.

Beth: Good. [*Everyone seems relieved that she's done.*]

Mr. Jones: Beth, would you like to take a turn?

Beth: [*As polite as can be.*] Thank you Mr. Jones. Yes, I would like to take a turn.

Mr. Jones: Well, go ahead.

Beth: [*Still polite.*] My one word for Sunday School is "waste of time."

[*Rachel and Beth both giggle.*]

Josh: Wait a minute. Not so fast. "Waste of time" is three words.

Beth: Do you want me to play this game or not?

Josh: Yes.

Beth: Than I can say three words instead of one. My three words are waste of time. We all sit around and talk about things that are a waste of time. I mean who cares what happened a trillion years ago on the other side of the world?

Mr. Jones: Thanks for telling us your three words. I appreciate your truthfulness. Josh, do you have anything that you'd like to say?

Josh: I think that Beth is right. The only difference for me is that I enjoy the intellectual stimulation that I get from studying the historical aspects of the Bible. My only complaint is that the discussion that ensues falls far short of stimulating. Just give me a book and leave me alone. This attempt at a class discussion we get here at Sunday School is just a waste of my time. I get quite bored every Sunday too.

Mr. Jones: Wow. I must say that your point was well stated. Okay Evan, you're the only one who hasn't said his word.

Evan: Dad?

Mr. Jones: Yes?

Evan: Are you going to be mad at me when I say my word?

Mr. Jones: No Evan, I want you to say how you feel.

Evan: Good. I really, really like coming to Sunday School because I can be with my friends, but... the one thing that I don't like is the songs that we sing. I hate singing. I can't sing good and you guys laugh at me. I wish that we could have Sunday School without singing and without being mean to each other. I don't like that either. It's not right.

[Everyone is embarrassed about being mean to each other. They spend a moment looking embarrassed before Rachel breaks the silence.]

Rachel: Mr. Jones? Are you going to play too?

Mr. Jones: Yeah. I guess that I could play along too. *[Thinking.]* My word is... awesome.

Evan: Awesome?

Josh: I don't get it?

Beth: You've got to be kidding me?

Rachel: Why would you think that Sunday School is awesome?

Mr. Jones: *[Don't come across as attacking them. Calmly make you point.]* Sunday School is a place where we learn more about God. Don't you realize how much He has done for us? He gave us everything we have. Without Him we would have nothing. No clothes, no toys, no intelligence, no friends. And I haven't even mentioned that if it wasn't for what Christ did for us when He died on the cross none of us would be going to heaven.

Rachel: I think I know the things that God has done for me, but I still think that coming to Sunday School is boring. I don't know why you think that it's so awesome.

Mr. Jones: Why wouldn't Sunday School be awesome? We learn more about people who trusted God, we play some pretty cool games, we learn how to live a life that makes God happy, and it's a good chance for us to be around our Christian friends.

Josh: I never thought about it like that.

Mr. Jones: Beth, you said that Sunday School is a waste of time.

Beth: Yeah, that's what I said.

Mr. Jones: I think that Sunday School is a good way for us to spend time together. Nobody can live this life on their own. Sunday School is a great place for us to meet with our friends and to meet new friends. Are you going to tell me that you wouldn't miss being in this class if you stayed at home Sunday mornings?

Beth: *[Thinking.]* No, you're right. I'd miss you guys.

Mr. Jones: And Josh, you said that the discussion time is lacking?

Josh: *[Beginning to think that his analysis was a mistake.]* Yeah, that's what I said.

Evan: I think you're a lot smarter than the rest of us. I mean, I wish that I knew as much as you know.

Mr. Jones: Josh, do you think that Sunday School would be more interesting if you tried to help your classmates learn more through the discussions that you have in class?

Josh: [*Excited.*] Yeah, I love teaching people new things. Then I wouldn't be so bored with the discussion.

Mr. Jones: And Evan, you said that you don't like singing?

Evan: I love singing but people don't like listenin' to me when I sing.

[*They all giggle.*]

Mr. Jones: Maybe you should try to remember that God loves to hear you sing. No matter how bad you sound to other people, God thinks that the songs that you sing to Him are beautiful. [*Pause.*] Now, can anyone tell me what we learned today?

Beth: So, we should remember that Sunday School is awesome.

Mr. Jones: That's right.

Rachel: And we should remember that Sunday School is a lot of fun.

Mr. Jones: That's right.

Josh: And we should remember that Sunday School is a good place to learn more about God.

Mr. Jones: That's right.

Evan: And we should remember that God doesn't really care how good we sing as long as we sing our songs to Him.

Mr. Jones: That's right.

Beth: I guess that we did learn something today.

Rachel: Even though Mrs. Simpson didn't make it.

Evan: Dad, I'm glad that you stayed here with us today.

Beth: Me too.

Josh: Me three.

Rachel: Me four.

Mr. Jones: Me five. Hey, you guys have been great.

Beth: So have you Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones: Thanks. [*Looking at his watch.*] My goodness, it's time to go already. See how time flies when you're learning about the Lord? Let's close in prayer and then we'll go upstairs for church. Okay? Now everyone fold your hands, bow your heads, and close their eyes. Thank you Lord for the blessings that you have given to us. Thank you for the things that we were able to learn here today. Thank you for the things that you have done for us. And thank you for Sunday School. Amen.

Beth: Thank you for this day. Amen.

Josh: Thank you for your love. Amen.


Evan: Thank you for my dad. Amen.

Rachel: Please be with Mrs. Simpson. Wherever she is. Amen.

Mr. Jones: AMEN! Great job guys. Come on, let's go upstairs to church.

[*They all leave together as Mr. Jones herds them off stage.*]

- CURTAIN -



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