

Four skits on  
**Getting Along**

By Kathy Applebee



These 4 skits are part of the Kempsville Church of Christ character education program.

## Dog Hats

CHARACTERS: A and B as dogs. A and B should ham it up, pretending to be dogs – panting with tongues out, scratching at fleas, etc.

COSTUMES: Street clothes with dog collars, possibly fake ears.

PROPS: none

SETTING: None specified

*At rise: A and B walk in on all fours from opposite sides. They stop to talk.*

A: Arf, Arf! How's it going?

B: Not so good, I'm afraid. I've had a fight with Lassie.

A: The collie over on Main Street?

B: That's the one. We had plans to dig around and look for old bones together. But then we had a BIG argument. Lassie was wearing one of those stupid hats people like to put on us dogs, to make us look cute. I happened to say how stupid Lassie looked.

A: I bet Lassie got upset.

B: Sure did. Started barking up a storm. Lassie got all worked up into a lather and raced off home in big "woof". We didn't even start digging at all. It was a wasted afternoon all round.

A: You really stuck your paw in your mouth, if you know what I mean.

B: Yeah, and now Lassie won't even bark at me. I've been bored with nobody to chase cats with or dig for bones.

A: I think you ought to apologize to Lassie for what you said. Maybe you could work things out between you.

B: Yeah I guess so. It was a pretty stupid thing to disagree over.

A: People do it all the time too. They argue over all sorts of silly things at times. It's so easy to get sidetracked from what's really important. *(To audience)* What are some stupid things to fight over? *(Get suggestions)*

B: *(To audience)* Anybody have any ideas about what I can say to Lassie to apologize? *(Get suggestions. With A get children to give some real life examples of stupid things to fight about and how they made peace.)*

I find that sometimes as a Christian I have to carefully watch what I say or else I...

B. (*interrupting*) "Bark up the wrong tree?" If you know what I mean.

D. Exactly.

B. Well I'm off to talk to Rolly to sort things out.

D. Goodbye Bentley!

B. Woofya!

## Peacemaker of the Gossipers

CHARACTERS: A and B

COSTUMES: Street clothes

PROPS: Bible

SETTING: None specified

*At rise: A is deep in thought. B enters.*

B: Are you studying for a test or something?

A: No, I'm studying a scripture. "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons of God. It is in Matthew 5, verse 9. I want to do something to patch up the problems with all the gossip and fighting going on.

B: That's a great idea. Maybe I can help.

A: Did you know Carol and Keisha had a big argument?

B: Yes. They keep asking me what the other one is saying about them. I don't want to get in the middle of it.

A: You ought to see them now.

B: What happened?

A: Every time I talked to one of them they said some pretty nasty things about the other one. So I looked at what they said and found the good in it.

B: How did that help?

A: I would go to Carol and tell her the nice part about what Keisha said. For instance, Keisha said (*Changing to a mocking voice*) "I hate school but I suppose Carol likes it since she's the smartest girl in class. She is always on the honor roll. It's disgusting."

B: How did you handle that?

A: I told Carol that Keisha thought she was the smartest girl in class.

B: Wow. It was the truth. How did it go over?

A: They became friends again. In fact Keisha spent the night at Carol's last night. Now if I could only figure out a way to bring peace everywhere.

B: You've been a real peacemaker. That's a good description of a child of God.

A: *(to audience)* How about you boys and girls? Will you be a peacemaker? Listen for good things about others and pass that along.

B: You will see what a difference it will make. It will please your friends, and it will also please God.

A: It will please you, too, for the Bible calls peacemakers "blessed" or "happy". Find at least one compliment today to carry to someone else.

B: Especially between people who are not getting along.

## Building bridges

CHARACTERS: 3

COSTUMES: A and B in street clothes. Narrator/carpenter in overalls

PROPS: Hat, tool box, nails, two pieces of wood for a cross

SETTING: Implied outdoors

Narrator/carpenter: *(To audience)* Once upon a time two siblings who lived on adjoining property fell into conflict. It was the first serious fight in 40 years of living side by side, sharing things, helping each other and enjoying being friends as well as siblings.

A: *(To audience)* I don't even remember what started it. It was a small thing someone said.

B: *(To audience)* But it grew, no, it exploded into bitter words. *(To A, gruffly)* I have absolutely had enough of you. It seems all you want to do is say and do hurtful things to me. Stay out of my life and off my property from now on.

A: *(Angry)* Fine, I'll stay out of your life. And to make it easier, I'll just take my bulldozer and make a creek between our properties. That way you needn't worry about me getting in your way. Nor will I have to worry about you getting onto my property or into my business anymore. *(A takes a blue streamer and lays it down to divide their property)*

Narrator/carpenter: For months, things went on. At times, the brothers stood on either side of the creek, hurling insults and screaming at each other. Then, one morning, there was a knock at B's door. He opened it to find a carpenter in need of work. *(Picks up his tool box, puts on hat, pantomimes knocking on the door)*

B: Yes?

Carpenter: *(handing him his business card)* I'm looking for a few days work. Perhaps you have a few small jobs here and there that I could help you with?

B: Yes, I do have a job for you. See that farm across the creek? That's my awful, horrible, terrible neighbor. A few months ago there was a meadow between us, but he took his bulldozer and now there's a creek between us. I think he did that to spite me, but I'll go him one better. Take that lumber and build me a fence - an 8-foot high fence, so I won't have to look at him ever again.

Carpenter: I think I understand the situation. I have wood and nails. I can fix the situation. *(B exits. Carpenter takes 2 pieces of wood and makes a cross. He lays it over the "creek")*

B: *(Angry at the carpenter.)* This is not a fence; this is a bridge. Why did you do that?

Carpenter: Because sometimes what you want is not what you need. *(A comes in, stares at the bridge, breaks into a big grin and walks across the "bridge" with open arms, hugging B when reaching the other side.)*

A: Thank you so much. After all I have said and done, you built a bridge. Can you forgive me for everything? *(Carpenter quietly exits without them noticing)*

B: Ummm. Yeah. I forgive you. Will you forgive me too?

A: Absolutely. *(They embrace)* It was actually that carpenter who built the bridge for us. I don't even know his name. You are quite a brother to build this bridge after all I've said and done.

B: *(Starts across the bridge. They meet in the middle and hug.)* I've missed you. I am so happy we can be friends as well as siblings again. Actually that carpenter. *(Looks around)* Where did he go?

A: Who was he?

B: *(reading the business card)* The carpenter from Galilee. "I fixed it all with wood and nails." *(To audience)* Who do you think that carpenter was? What do you think he means about fixing things with wood and nails? *(A and B should continue questioning the audience to bring out that the carpenter was Jesus, he fixed things by dying on the cross for us and that by letting him give us what we need, not always what we want, we have a better life in him.)*

## The Duct Taped Mouth

CHARACTERS: A and B

COSTUMES: Street clothes

PROPS: Duct Tape

SETTING: None specified

*At rise: A and B are walking toward each other from opposite directions.*

A: Why do you have duct tape on your mouth?

B: (Hamming it up, mumbles through the tape and uses exaggerated motions to try to communicate. A is confused and keeps making wrong guesses until B finally removes the tape and talks normally)

A: Your computer ate all the pizza? ..... You just got a new goat? ..... The car jumped over the moon?

B: (removing tape) I can only take this off for a second. Tell me if you see my little sister coming.

A: OK. But why?

B: See, every time I try to talk to my younger sister, mean words fly out of my mouth.

A: You mean you speak unkindly to her?

B: You could put it that way, but I prefer to think of it as words flying out of my mouth. That way I'm not responsible--I can't control it!

A: Words are hard to control. James says, "But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison."

B: Deadly poison? I didn't realize it was that bad. If the verse said that, "No one can tame the tongue;" It's hopeless! I'm ruined!

A: Not completely ruined. You've forgotten that in Philippians Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." It's true, without God's help we're hopeless. But with Jesus on our side, we even control our tongues!

B: So I could put the duct tape on my just my tongue instead of over my mouth?



A: I don't think that is the best solution. I mean – how would you eat? This is what I did when I kept saying horrible things to my brother. I asked God to guard my mouth. Psalms 141:3 says, "Set a guard, Oh Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips."

B: God is stronger than duct tape.

A: He sure is. Proverbs also says that "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles." But don't forget that we can't guard our mouths on our own...we must ask God to let the words of our mouths be acceptable in His sight.

B: Okay, I can do that. What's the second thing?

A: I think we should practice. I'll pretend to be your little sister. I am in your room, and when you come in, you have to say something. If you say godly things, something Jesus might like, the audience will cheer for you and give you a thumbs up...

B: And if I say mean things?

A: Then the audience will say, "Boo" And give you the thumbs down.

B: Okay, let's try it.

A: All right! (*To audience*) You ready? Cheer and thumbs up for nice things, but boo and thumbs down for bad things. (*to B*) start with the last thing you said to your sister.

B: You little hoodlum! This is my room, you hear? You better get out before I count to five, or else...

(*Audience boos.*)

A: Let's try that again. No name-calling this time.

B: No name-calling? I'll try. What are you doing in my room? It's mine! Get out right now!

(*Audience boos.*)

A: Hmm...instead of ordering her around, try to make your words kind.

B: Kind? Hmm, that's new! I'll try it. (*Gruffly*) Please get out of my room.

(*Audience boos.*)

A: Try this. Talk to her the way you liked to be talk to.

B: Oh, you mean the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you'd have others do unto you.

A: That's right! But that's not just some little rule...Jesus said it!

B: That's right. He did. You remember that verse in James that I told you about?

B: Uh huh.

A: Well, the next verse says that with our tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;"

B: What is that supposed to mean?

A: Everybody was created in the likeness of God. When we speak to them cruelly, it's like we're talking to God that way. Jesus says that whatever we do to the least of them, we're doing it to Him!

B: That's pretty serious.

A: I think so!

B: Okay, I think I'm ready now.

A: All right, let's go!

B: (*Kindly*) Becky, I have to finish my homework before I can play with you. Could you please give me some space and wait for me outside my room so I can get this done and we can play?

(*Audience cheers.*)

A: That was awesome Joe!

B: You really think so?

A: I really do! It wasn't so hard, was it?

B: No, once I tried to speak to her the way I'd like to be spoken to, it was easy as pie! Speaking of which, I'm going to go find my sister and suggest we help mom make a pie for supper.

A: Great idea. Pie. I love pie. Good thing you won't have that duct tape over your mouth anymore.

B: It sure would be bad to miss out on pie. (*B starts to go*)

A: Remember that "Do unto others...?"

B: Yeah. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

A: Suppose I was making a pie for supper. What would you want me to ask you?

B: I would want you to invite me over to have some pie. *(Laughing)* I'll ask my mom and see if it's OK for you to come over. Having you around will help me remember how to speak to my sister and everybody else.