

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

by RACHEL C. HOYER

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** At a rehearsal for a “reader’s theater” presentation of Luke 6:27 –38, Brenda doesn’t like the tone of the verses she’s been assigned – especially as they call one to “love your enemies.” It’s up to the rest of the cast to show Brenda the depth of those words.

**DIRECTOR’S TIP:** This script begins and ends with a rehearsal for a “reader’s theater” presentation of Luke 6:27–38. Brenda doesn’t like the tone of the verses she’s been assigned, and she doesn’t grasp the whole “loving your enemies” stuff. The director, Stephanie, asks the other actors to improv short scenes to help Brenda understand. Have fun with this. It’s a serious topic, but leave the preaching for the pastor. These are actors, trying to help a fellow actor find her motivation. And while they’re at it, they lose sight of the loving part of “love your enemies” also.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Love, Forgiveness

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 6:27-38

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Christmas

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service, Bible Study

**CHARACTERS:**

Brenda –Age 35 –45; an actor in rehearsal; doesn’t get along with Stephanie  
Ken –Age 35 –45; an actor in rehearsal  
Laura –Age 35 –45; an actor in rehearsal  
Stephanie –Age 35 –45; an actor leading a rehearsal

**PROPS:** 1) Black binders for reader’s theater scripts  
2) Newspaper (optional)  
3) Knitting materials (yarn and needles)(optional)  
4) Two or more chairs  
5) Folder or notepad for office scene (optional)

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

**SOUND:** Four wireless mics

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Bare stage

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## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES *by Rachel C. Hoyer*

*As the scene opens, ACTORS ENTER, preparing for a rehearsal. They ad-lib about the weather, sports, anything, and bring their props in with them if necessary. Note: The Scripture quotations used in this script are from the New International Version of the Bible. You may substitute another version if you so desire.*

**STEPHANIE:** Okay. It's time to start rehearsal. Places, everyone. Let's take it from the top.

*The ACTORS take their places in a straight line across the front of the stage. Their positioning is boring and their tone is heavy-handed. Their reading is a real downer.*

**BRENDA:** Luke chapter 6: "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

**KEN:** "If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic.

**LAURA:** "Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

**STEPHANIE:** (More upbeat than the rest) "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

*It is BRENDA'S turn, but she is lost in thought.*

*STEPHANIE repeats her line, "aiming" it at BRENDA.*

**STEPHANIE:** (With more emphasis as a hint) "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

*Still no response from BRENDA.*

**KEN:** Brenda. (Nothing) Psssstt. Brenda. It's your line. You're supposed to read verse 32.

**BRENDA:** (Still in a daze) What? Oh. Sorry. I was just thinking.

**KEN:** Well, start listening instead. Verse 32. Go.

**BRENDA:** I can't.

**KEN & LAURA:** Why not? What's wrong?

**BRENDA:** Did you look at the verses I get to read? I start with one that says to love your enemies. Then I get verse 35: "But love your enemies, do good to them ..." It's just not fair. Who decided who was reading which verses anyway?

**STEPHANIE:** That would be me. There are four of us, and I went in alphabetical order.