

Readers Theatre: Love Is A Verb

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MC USA Convention Orlando '17 youth worship

(Written for 3 voices).

Props: Kitchen table with 4-5 wooden chairs; large white towel draped over back of one chair; glass pitcher with water on table; basin on floor next to table

Scene begins: When lights come on, Voices 1&2&3 are clustered together to one side of stage.

3: Dear friends, I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other.

1: *Love is patient,*

2: *love is kind*

3: Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

1: *It does not envy*

2: *It does not boast*

3: Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

3 (*walk over to the table*): Before the Passover celebration,

Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return.

Having loved his own, he loved them to the end.

All of them.

(*Slight pause. Extend hands outward towards chairs, and then walk behind table and touch the backs of each chair in the next line as you say, 'betray,' 'doubt,' 'deny,' 'desert'.*)

Even though he knew that soon these "friends" would betray him,
doubt him,
deny him,
and desert him.

Still, during supper he got up from the table,

took off his robe,

wrapped a towel around his waist,

and poured water into a basin. (*Pause to pour water in basin on floor*)

Then he began to wash the disciples' feet.

(*As you read above words, take water from the table, kneel down, pour into the basin on the floor, put pitcher to side, place towel on your lap and freeze. Stay in this position until next line.*)

1: Dear friends, no one has ever seen God,

2: *No one, not one*

1: But if we love one another, God lives in us,

2: *God in us. Us in God.*

1: And God's love is made complete.

2: *For God is love.*

1: As God lives in us, God is known,

2: *Felt,*
1: Experienced,
2: *Made real.*

(Voice 3 looks up and into camera, says line and then freezes again.)

3: Dear friends, I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other.
Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.
Your love for one another *will prove* to the world that you are my disciples.

1: Love one another, not only in word, but in action.

1&2: For love comes from God.

2: *Love is patient, love is kind.*

1: Seek peace

2: *It does not envy or boast*

1: Work for justice

2: *It is not proud, rude, or self-seeking*

1: Be hospitable

2: *It is not easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs*

1: Forgive each other

2: *Love rejoices in truth*

1: Listen deeply

2: *Love protects*

1: Care for one another

2: *Love trusts*

1: Take risks

2: *Love hopes,*

1: Believe the best

2: *Love perseveres.*

1&2: Love never fails.

1: As we love...God lives in us,

2: *God is known,*

1: Felt,

2: *Experienced*

1&2: Made real.

(pause—Voice 3 looks up and at the camera.)

3: I'm giving you a new command. Love each other. Just as I have loved you.

1: You...

2: *You.*