

## **Difficult Daphne Learns About Kindness** **A Children's Sermon that's FUN to Give and FUN to Hear!**

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Difficult Daphne is a spirited girl who makes mistakes, a lot, but has a wonderful surrounding cast to set her straight. Her stories relate biblical lessons in language that children can understand because Daphne lives in the same world that they live in and struggles with the same issues that they struggle with. It is important to tell these stories with energy and a sense of humor, not as if you are reading off of a sheet of paper.

### Week 2 – Kindness

“Once upon a time a long time ago and not very far away there was a girl and her name was Difficult Daphne. One day Daphne went to school, like any other day. She sat at her desk (even though she really wanted to be home playing with her pet toad), she listened to the teacher (most of the time), and she couldn't wait for recess. Oh, how she loved recess. It was her favorite part of the day and she was very anxious to get outside to pick up the daily game of four-square. Do any of you like to go outside to play? (Let them answer) What do you like to play outside? (Let them answer)

Well on this day, right before lunch, the principal knocked at the door. As he opened the door Daphne's class held their breath. What could the principal want? Was someone in trouble? It wasn't long before they saw that the principal was bringing in...a new student. And not just any new student, this new student was from a different country! She looked different, she dressed different and she didn't even speak English. The class just stared at the new girl.

During lunch Daphne and her friends sat together at the lunch table like they did every other day. They giggled and laughed as they ate their food, like they did everyday. They refused to eat the vegetables that their mom's had put in their lunchbox, like they did everyday. But this day was not like everyday. On this day, no one noticed that at the table next to them there was the new girl, sitting all alone.

After lunch the kids rushed outside to play. Daphne ran to get the four square ball and there was already a line forming for the game. They started to play, like they did everyday, when they saw the new girl standing in line. Daphne & most of the other kids stared at her. She looked different! She didn't even speak English. She was, they decided, most definitely....weird. So Daphne decided to do something about it. She went over to the girl and said, “You can't play here! This game is closed. Go somewhere else.”

Even though the girl didn't speak English she could tell by the tone of Daphne's voice and the way that the kids stared at her that she wasn't welcome. She sadly walked away. She was all alone. About that time Daphne's friend Gentle Gina spoke up and said, “Daphne! That was not kind!!! The Bible says that **love is kind** and you are supposed to love your neighbor as yourself.” Now Daphne felt bad. She knew her friend was right. So she dropped the ball and left the game, even though she would lose her place in line, and ran across the playground where the girl was sitting alone. She said, “I'm sorry” even though the girl couldn't understand her, grabbed her hand and brought her back over to the game. She stood next to her in line and smiled the biggest smile she could muster. Now that was a language that even the new girl could understand!

Please hold someone's hand as we pray. Dear God: Thank you for loving us. Please help us to be kind to all people, even those that we think are different. Amen