

— the #1 RULE —

A line of school kids struggle to obey all the teacher's rules. They learn that if they follow the #1 rule of Jesus, to love one another, then everything else will fall into place.

Actors: Teacher, line of kids (Ducky, Plucky, Chucky, Stucky), more kids if you wish
Props: Ball, jump rope, caps for kids to wear, whistle or ruler for teacher.

A teacher leads a group of kids in line to center stage. They are pushing, shoving, and arguing with each other. The teacher tries to keep them under control, but the kids keep misbehaving.

Ducky: Hey, you cut in line! *<pushes other kid>*
Plucky: I was here first. *<pushes kid back>*
Chucky: Hey, get back to your place in the back of the line.
Stucky: Stop shoving me!
Ducky: Ouch! You just stepped on my foot!
Plucky: Well, you were in my way!
Ducky: Was not!
Plucky: Was too!
Teacher: *<shouting>* Okay kids, quiet! I think we'll have to set some ground rules for the line.
Kids: Rules? No way!
Teacher: So listen up! No pushing, no shoving, no cutting, and no wiggling. Okay kids?
Kids: *<glumly>* Okay. *<Kids try to behave>*
Teacher: And no shouting, no arguing, no stomping, and no squirming. Okay kids?
Kids: Okay. *<Kids try to behave>*
Teacher: And no talking, no texting, no whispering, no laughing, no twitching, no picking, no poking, no moving, and no breathing. Okay kids?
Kids: Okay. *<Kids try to behave>*
Ducky: *<Hand goes up>* Um, um!
Teacher: Yes Ducky?
Ducky: I don't think I can keep all those rules.
Teacher: Why not?
Ducky: There are too many.
Plucky: Yeah, how are we supposed to obey all those rules anyway?
Chucky: We can't even remember what they are?
Stucky: No breathing? C'mon, we all have to breathe!
Teacher: Okay, okay. I've got a better idea. We'll just have one rule.
Ducky: Just one?
Plucky: Really?
Teacher: Yes, just one rule. And this one will take care of all the other rules put together.
Chucky: Okay, what is it?
Teacher: *<slowly and deliberately>* The #1 rule is, "Love one another."
Kids: What?

Teacher: The #1 rule is, "Love one another." Period.
 Ducky: That's it?
 Teacher: Yup, if we love one another, then everything else will fall into place. Okay kids?
 Kids: Okay!
 Teacher: So before you do anything, ask yourself, "Am I loving my neighbor or not?" Okay?
 Kids: Okay!
 Teacher: Remember, the #1 rule is, "Love one another." Okay?
 Kids: Okay!
 Teacher: Alright then, let's line up again kids!
 Kids: Okay! *<All face audience, put arms around each other, and bow heads to pray>*
 Ducky: Dear God, help us to love one another.
 Plucky: And learn to get along better and not fight with each other too.
 Chucky: Help us to think about our neighbor's needs, not just what we want ourselves.
 Stucky: And when we make mistakes, help us to forgive each other.
 Ducky: Help us to follow Jesus and do what he tells us to do.
 Plucky: And help us to take care of and watch out for each other too.
 Chucky: Keep us from arguing, complaining, and hurting each other.
 Stucky: Dear God, help us to love one another.
 Kids: Amen.

Scripture: John 13:34-35 "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Message: Sometimes it is hard to follow a bunch of rules. There can be so many rules at times that it's difficult to even remember them all. You have to make a long list just to keep track. Jesus saw that his disciples were having a hard time following all the rules too. He helped them by giving them one rule to follow above all others. The rule he gave them was to love one another. He knew that if they followed this rule then everything else would fall into place. That means, that if they would just love each other, then they would naturally follow all the other rules too. Sometimes we mess up and make mistakes though. But if we follow the #1 rule of Jesus to love one another, we can love, forgive and help each other. Then others will notice our love for each other and want that too. Let's remember to always love one another.

Questions: What are some rules you have at home? Which rule is the hardest to obey? Why do you think Jesus gave the disciples the rule to love one another? How can this rule help you get along with your friends and family? How can it help everyone around you?

Prayer: Dear God, help us to remember Jesus' #1 rule. Help us to love one another. Amen.

Skits With A Message © 2016 Cross the Sky Ministries www.crossthesky.com