

A script from



## **“Unless a Seed is Planted”**

by  
Sarah Wall

**What** In this funny sketch, two characters plant a community garden as they wrestle with the idea of dying to self.

**Themes:** Dying to Self, Death, New Life

**Who** Kevin  
Chris

**When** Present day

**Wear (Props)** Both characters should wear clothing appropriate for gardening and getting dirty. Chris will need a handful of seeds. Kevin will need a garden box of some kind filled with soil. He'll also need a garden trowel or a hoe.

**Why** John 12:20-26, Luke 9:23-24, Romans 6:11-14

**How** Parts can easily be adjusted for characters either to be adult males or females. Chris can be played a little “over-the-top” and Kevin is more reasonable. Have fun with this! The back and forth should be tight with lots of energy.

**Time** 6 minutes

*Chris enters holding seeds, as Kevin works in the soil.*

**Kevin:** Hey, you made it!

**Chris:** Yes, I'm here! Thanks for the invite! Wow, it looks like a lot of work has already happened, huh?

**Kevin:** Oh, yeah, tons! When we started this thing, I had no idea how much it would take to grow a community garden. But my prayer is that it'll be a blessing. Maybe we can feed some people who would be hungry otherwise.

**Chris:** I love that. And I'm all in. I'm ready to learn!

**Kevin:** That's a great attitude. And I'm ready to put you to work! *(Both chuckle)* So what'cha got in your hand there?

**Chris:** Oh, I brought some seeds.

**Kevin:** Great! Well, I've got a spot all ready for you here. What kind of seeds have you brought to share.

**Chris:** Kale.

**Kevin:** Kale seeds? Awesome. We don't have any kale here yet, I don't believe.

**Chris:** Yeah, kale just isn't as fashionable as it used to be.

**Kevin:** Well, you know what they say in farming circles... Swiss chard is the new kale.

**Chris:** SHHH! *(Covers the seeds in hand)* They'll hear you. *(Briefly uncovers hand to whisper to seeds)* He didn't mean that. *(Back to Kevin)* I imagine they must be sensitive about it given the fact that Swiss Chard is the prettier cousin. Family drama, amiright?

**Kevin:** *(starting to wonder what he's got himself into)* Sure. Well, like I said, I've got this plot here all ready for you. Lots of room for those roots to spread out. So the next thing we'll do is put your seeds into the ground.

**Chris:** The ground! Into the ground. *(Clearly stalling)* Right. So I'll just take these seeds here, and I'll put them there. In the dirt. In the dark, filthy, scary, dirty dirt.

**Kevin:** Well, soil, yes. It's full of nutrients. We've worked hard to get it ready for planting. So whenever you're ready...

**Chris:** Yes! We're planting. We're planting now. Now we're really onto something. Now we're cookin' with gas! Now we're fanning the spark!

Now we're stoking the fire! Only you can prevent forest fires, you know...

**Kevin:** You seem to be in a very combustible place, and I assure you that's the opposite of what we're going for here.

**Chris:** Oh, no! No, not fire. No flames. This is a no-flame zone. You can't hear it, but all my seeds just screamed a tiny little seed scream. (*Mimics tiny shriek*) It's hard to hear with the naked ear. Only dogs can hear it. And me. I can hear it. And bats, actually. Bats can hear it. Terrible eyesight, though, bats—

**Kevin:** —okay, that's incredible. I had no idea you were so...knowledgeable. So what we're gonna do is just drop the seeds in this trough here, maybe 3 inches apart—

**Chris:** —did you know pigeons can HEAR earthquakes before we can feel them? It's basically a super-power. That's a lot of responsibility for a bird that can't even speak English, you know? But carrier pigeons are brave. Carrier pigeons have been awarded medals! I have no medals to date, but—

**Kevin:** Alright, what exactly is going on here? Why do we seem to be having trouble planting those seeds?

**Chris:** I just think there may be factors in all this that we haven't yet considered!

**Kevin:** Factors? What factors?

**Chris:** Well, consider this! If I plant these seeds in that soil right there, then I will be just like my favorite grapes.

**Kevin:** (*entirely befuddled*) Wh...okay, I mean, so...what??

**Chris:** Seedless. I will be seedless.

**Kevin:** Right, but...but that's the point, right? That's why we're here, to plant the seeds.

**Chris:** Sure, sure, sure, sure. But think about THIS: What if...what IF instead...we...DIDN'T?

**Kevin:** Well, if we didn't then I suppose we could give away baskets full of nothing and ask people to imagine that it tastes like kale...

**Chris:** I ATE KALE THAT TASTED LIKE A BASKET ONCE!

**Kevin:** Of course you did. How do you even know what a basket tastes li—  
Okay, you know what? Never mind. We've gotta get those seeds in the ground.

**Chris:** But I like these seeds.

**Kevin:** You like THOSE seeds, in particular?

**Chris:** Yeah, these seeds. I mean look at 'em. They're so little and round. They're like babies. They're my kale babies.

**Kevin:** *(to self, venting)* "Volunteer at the community garden," they said! "It'll be great," they said. I knew about the fruits. Did not anticipate the nuts.

**Chris:** *(doesn't hear the venting)* I think they need me.

**Kevin:** Oh, they NEED you. Okay. Alright. I see. I see. I see...

**Chris:** Better than a bat, I hope.

**Kevin:** Right. Listen, you don't need to feel bad about these seeds being planted.

**Chris:** I don't? So okay, what happens when the seeds go into the ground, then?

**Kevin:** Well...you know...when the seeds go into the ground...they will...die.

**Chris:** *(horrified)* They'll DIE?? They can't DIE!! I have carried these seeds in my very own hand for 52 MINUTES! If you add 599 more hours to that, you have the gestation period of a gerbil. And that makes gerbil babies!!

**Kevin:** Uh-huh. But it's okay, because these seeds are meant to be planted. They WANT to go into the ground.

**Chris:** Well, I've never heard them say that even once.

**Kevin:** Ooo-kay. But you can take my word for it because I work with seeds all the time.

**Chris:** *(begins to resign himself)* I know. I suppose you ARE the expert.

**Kevin:** That's right. And I hope you will believe me when I tell you...well, it's sort of like us with Jesus. Every act of dying...in Him? Well, it always produces life somewhere, right? These seeds need to be planted. They need to die. So that even more life can come. For a greater crop. A bigger harvest than what you've got there.

**Chris:** So...so it's like their little seed destiny. Their de-seed-ny, you might say.

**Kevin:** Probably no one would say it that way. But, sure. You've gotta let those seeds die. And you just WATCH what springs up.

**Chris:** *(begins to speak in a grandiose and grandstanding way, as if resolute, delivering a climactic and inspirational monologue. Holds the seeds out and aloft in a Lion King-y way)*

Alright. Okay, then I'm doing it. It's time. Ladies and gentlemen, it's time to take these seeds of kale and lay them low in the earth. And they shall be gone from our site but for a little while. Oh, but do not pity them, friends. For 5 to 8 days later they shall sprout forth in leafy green glory not yet seen here before! And on that day, there will be great jubilation, as vegetarian and carnivore alike—

**Kevin:** *(grabs seeds, throws them in the ground and hastily covers them with dirt using a trowel or garden hoe)*—yep, great! Awesome. Here we go. This is gonna be perfect.

**Chris:** *(glaringly)* You have no appreciation for ceremony, do you?

**Kevin:** *(gives a half-hearted arm flourish and a curtsy)*

**Chris:** Pageantry is dead.

**Kevin:** Well, I'm starved. You wanna go eat? I don't suppose you'd be up for a salad...?

**Chris:** *(sighs)* No, it's too soon, I think. But sure. I could eat. *(Turns to look at newly-covered seeds)* So long seeds! Behave yourselves in there. Grow up big and tasty! *(Turns back to walk out with Kevin)*

**Kevin:** Burgers, then?

**Chris:** Alright. But only if the bun is seedless.

**Kevin:** *(as they walk out of the garden)* So pageantry is dead, huh...? Kinda like your seeds.

**Chris:** TOO SOON, KEVIN!!

*Exit. The End.*