

THE CREED

RETURNING TO THE CREED

FREEZE FRAME

Characters: Pastor, Communicant, Sleeper, Hypocrite, Three Worshipers, Two Mockers, Blind Person, Evangelist

FYI: This is another still moment that may take some space to create. Arrange chairs like pews in a church with the front being the chancel area where the pastor will be standing. You will create a picture of what a church might look like if you could see into the hearts of the people gathered there. There should be three rows. The pastor, standing up front with his left arm spread out wide as if blessing the congregation, will pretend to use his right hand to place the host into the hand of the communicant kneeling in front of the pastor.

Place one worshiper who is facing the front singing from the hymnal in the back row.

Place two mockers laughing with each other while pointing to the singing worshiper in the back row.

In the middle row on one end, place a hypocrite who is facing the people, not the pastor, as if drawing attention to himself or herself. "Look at me. I'm in church!"

Place worshiper praying in the middle row.

Place the one who is sleeping in the middle row.

Place the third worshiper in the front row, looking to the front where the pastor is, listening to a sermon.

Place the communicant kneeling in front of the pastor, receiving Communion.

Place a blind person and an evangelist away from the pews as if the evangelist is guiding and helping the blind person to church while pointing in the direction of the church.

Ask, What does this contrived scene suggest about the Church? (Contrast the visible and invisible Church.) You may want to start the still moment with everyone facing forward in worship; this is what it might look like on Sunday morning. Then have everyone take on their character as stated above. Discuss the dangers of judging what we cannot really see and sometimes even what we can see.

DISCUSSION

Differentiate between the visible Church and the invisible Church. The visible Church is made up of both believers and hypocrites. The true and invisible Church is made up only of those who trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Why is it important that persons without faith remain in the visible Church, even though they are hypocrites? Exposed to the Means of Grace, they have ample opportunity to receive a change of heart and become believers through the working of the Holy Spirit.