

Media



✓ Prepare in Advance

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).

✓ Surprises

Show the *Bible Background Video* followed by the "Some Like it Hot" and/or "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" video clips, then use these questions to promote discussion:

- How might these videos relate to the Scriptures?
- How do you think your congregation would define the term "divine justice?"
- In what ways do you think the majority of your congregation would respond to the idea of tricking people into doing the right thing and why?
- What kinds of surprises do you think God has produced for your congregation and in what ways do such unexpected events affect the way you do things?
- It's common wisdom that unexpected things happen in life and we need to learn to deal with them, but what can a congregation do to help people both endure and learn from the unexpected things that happen to people?

✓ React to This

Play the "The Producers" video clip and/or "Watch What You're Doing" song, then ask questions like:

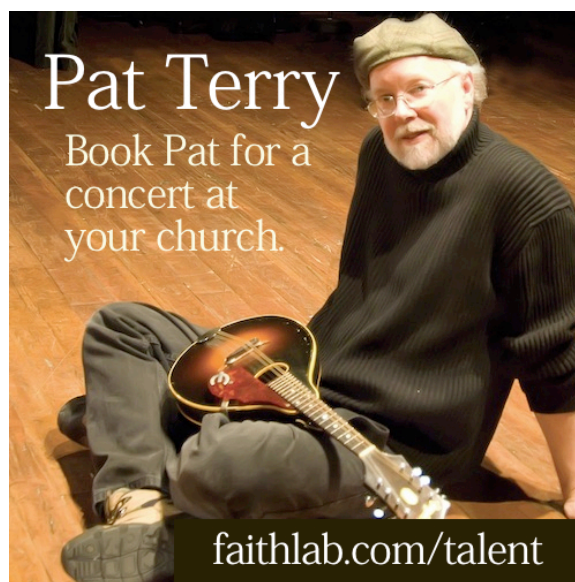
- In what ways does this material relate to the conversation we've been having to this point?
- Share with us about a time that you tricked someone, or were tricked by someone else. What was learned from the experience?
- What kinds of "shortcuts" do you tend to take in life (speeding; withholding information, etc.) and what do you think they might suggest about your character?
- Under what situations do you think that it is justifiable, if not desirable, to trick someone "for their own good?"
- How do you strike a balance between the need for honesty and fairness; interpersonal justice; and the occasional deception that everyone seems to perpetrate from time to time?

- In what ways does the image of a playful God who frequently surprises us fit with your sense of who God is, and how might that affect you?

✓ Close

Invite people to share a way in which they think God still surprises us today. Close with a prayer that they might find a way to allow God to transform the ordinary things in their lives into extraordinary ones.

by **David Adams**



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