

Pieces of the Puzzle - version C
c. Mike Fedel, 2008

connection/reading:

Corinthians 12.

props:

A 16 piece puzzle that resolves into an image of the church building the congregation is in. It can be a mounted photo, hand drawn, painted, anything. A 24x36" foamcore, then cut into 16 pieces (4X4). Straight edged or some kind of die cut, propmeister's choice. Make it easy enough to build during the service.

The pieces are numbered on the back 1 - 16 in the order they would be assembled, 1 is upper left corner.

A support for this poster. It can be a flat table, velcro to the wall, a 45-degreen platform that it can be built on, tape, etc.

Color cards for colors of the rainbow. One each: orange, yellow, green, blue, violet. Indigo is missing. Cards are big enough to be seen in the last row, small enough to just hold up.

Note: puzzle can be any number of pieces, adjust the script accordingly.

personnel:

Kelly
Deb
Tom

STAGING NOTES:

10 of the 16 pieces are handed out with the bulletins at the door. Completely random.
4 pieces (13-16) start out already in place, 12 is held by Tom, who is sitting in the congregation. 11 is held by someone we can queue when to go put their piece in.

Also, solicit 6 people to be prepared to come up when you as for volunteers. They are the fallback only, it would be best to have real volunteers.

Kelly and Deb walk onstage, stop center, turn to the congregation.

KELLY: How many of you remember last week's sermon?
Corinthians 12?

DEB: About everyone being part of the Bigger Picture? Just a show of hands is OK.

Pause for response.

KELLY: Well, we we wanted to make a visual metaphor for that.

DEB: Yes, and also, have a cooperative, group experience for all of you.

KELLY: Right. Some of you may have noticed that you were given an extra item when you got your bulletin today?

Deb holds up one of the pieces.

KELLY: Well, these are pieces to a puzzle. On the back of the pieces, you'll see a number. And over here...

Deb indicates the puzzle.

KELLY: ...is the puzzle itself. Now, we've make it easier than usual. For one thing, the pieces are all rectangular, and for another thing, they're numbered in sequence, left to right, top to bottom.

DEB: So, if we could ask you to help us, we'd like you to come up here at some point during the rest of the service and put your piece in place. We're building it from the bottom to the top. 13 thru 16 are the bottom

row, they're already in place. So now, whoever has 12 would come and place their piece in place next, starting a new row, right above number 16. Then 11 goes above 15, then 10 and so on, and when it's all over, we'll see the Big Picture. Everyone will have sort of "played their part" by the time the service is over.

Tom has number 12 and makes his way to the table.

KELLY: That completes the visual metaphor. Each of us has something to contribute and all of us together make up the Big Picture. Which is exactly what Paul was talking about.

Tom holds his piece in place, then withdraws it.

KELLY: [bowing to the congregation] Thank you very much.

DEB: [bowing also] Yes, thank you very much.

Deb and Kelly begin to walk offstage. Tom has placed his piece in the wrong place and is admiring it. Deb notices it as she is walking and steps toward Tom.

DEB: Umm... Tom?

TOM: Yeah?

DEB: Piece 12 goes right here, above piece 16. [she moves it]. See?

Tom looks at it for a moment, then moves piece 12 back where he'd placed it originally.

TOM: No, I like it better here.

KELLY: [steps forward, moves the piece back to the right place] Well, but if that piece is in the wrong place, the rest of the picture will be wrong.

TOM: Well, how would I know that? I haven't seen the finished picture yet.

DEB: Well, we've seen the finished picture. We made it. It's a prop.

TOM: [pause] Well, that isn't much of a metaphor for Corinthians, then, is it?

DEB: What do you mean?

TOM: Well, I mean, the whole problem is that here, you know what the finished picture is and in real life, you don't.

DEB: Well, sure you do. We are all part of God's Big Picture.

TOM: Right, but we don't know what the Big Picture looks like! Plus, there's all that stuff about whether you are an eye or an ear or a foot. You don't know what body part you're supposed to be. For it to work, you have to know if you're an eye or a hand or a nose or a kidney or whatever.

KELLY: Well, that isn't EXACTLY the point.

TOM: Sure it is. What if I want to be a kidney, but you think I should be a pancreas?

DEB: Then, you'd have to change and be a pancreas.

TOM: But what if I don't want to be a pancreas? And besides, how do YOU know I'm supposed to be a pancreas?

KELLY: Well, I don't KNOW. But it seems like you'd probably be a pancreas.

Tom puts piece 12 in place. Sometime in the next few minutes, piece 11 person comes up and puts their piece in place. We hope 10 and down continue during the play.

TOM: Well, what if I want to be a liver? Or a spleen? Or a kidney?

DEB: [agitated] That isn't the POINT! The point is that we all need to know our place and stay in it.

TOM: Oh. Right, I've heard that before. Does this ring a bell: you should be home in the kitchen cooking dinner?

KELLY: Careful, you're in dangerous territory, mister!

TOM: [points to Deb] SHE said it! OK, look, I think I have a better metaphor for you.

Tom picks up the colored cards and turns to the congregation.

TOM: Could I have some volunteers to come up and hold these? [pause - if nobody comes up, say 'just for a minute or two, you don't have to say anything.']

Hand one to Kelly and one to Deb, wait for volunteers. Probably a good idea to plant folks just in case. Everything is in place except Indigo, which wasn't handed out.

TOM: OK, thanks. Now, the idea will be to line up like the colors of the rainbow.

Positions the people in colors ROYGBIV, except without Indigo.

DEB: Isn't something missing?

Tom looks the line up and down, puzzled.

TOM: Nope, looks fine to me.

KELLY: There's no Indigo.

TOM: Well, who cares about Indigo? Nobody even knows what color that is!

DEB: You don't know what it is, so you just didn't include it?

TOM: Right.

DEB: [swapping two people out of place] Well, what about this, then? I prefer this lineup to the lineup you had, I think it's prettier.

TOM: [agitated] You can't just DO that! [anxiously puts the two people back into their original place]

DEB: Well, why are you so worried? I thought you could rearrange things if you didn't like them.

KELLY: Like you did with our puzzle over there. [points to the puzzle]

TOM: No, no, that's DIFFERENT.

KELLY: Or like you leaving off Indigo.

TOM: No, that's different too!

KELLY: OK, so tell us how it's different?

TOM: Well, first off, everyone KNOWS the order of the colors in the rainbow.

KELLY: All right, so far so good.

TOM: Well, that's all there is to it, you can't just go around changing things like that.

DEB: [distracted - more to herself] He has a point. What color IS Indigo?

KELLY: Right, but we also know that rainbows include Indigo and you don't have any Indigo in yours.

TOM: [agitated] Nobody CARES about Indigo!

KELLY: Easy, easy. OK, so let me ask you something then.

TOM: [taking deep breaths] OK.

DEB: [distracted] I think Indigo is a very deep green...

They both look at her, then return to their conversation.

KELLY: Let's go back to our metaphor.

TOM: OK.

KELLY: I think you've created a real problem here.

TOM: How so?

DEB: [gazing off] Or maybe it's a transitional shade...

Both of them look at Deb again, shake their heads, return to talking to each other.

KELLY: So you're saying you left out Indigo because nobody cares.

TOM: Right.

DEB: I think it's a kind of blue.

KELLY: Deb! Yes, it's blue. Pay attention!

DEB: [startled] Right, right.

KELLY: What does that match in the metaphor? Is there somebody you leave out because nobody cares?

TOM: [flustered] Well...um...no. You can't really leave out any of the parts...

They pause and look at each other for a few seconds.

KELLY: It looks like we need a better way of getting our point across.

TOM: OK, I'll go figure something out.

DEB: No, wait! I get it! HERE'S the metaphor. Kelly and I had one way of talking about it, then you had another way of talking about it.

Kelly and Tom nodding their heads.

DEB: Why don't all three of us sit down and talk about how we could build a better example together?

KELLY: Right - because Tom, you clearly bring up a good point about having to see the Big Picture.

TOM: Yeah, and you two have a great idea with these puzzle pieces.

DEB: Sure. If the three of us put our heads together, I'll bet we can come up with something really great.

KELLY: Yeah, that'll work.

They begin to walk offstage.

TOM: OK. [pause] But I still don't want to have to be a pancreas.

THE END