

CHARACTERS:

(5, none are gender specific.)

(NOTE: The three Superheroes are caricatures and should be played over-the-top. Affected voices with exaggerated gestures might be a choice as most everything they speak is a declaration of the utmost importance.)

TRUTH: Superhero, everything is black and white, right and wrong. Judgemental.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Superhero, over developed sense of importance. Believes others survival is dependant upon his/her help. Emotional.

THE EXAMPLE: Superhero, very proud that he/she is different from others and set apart. Doesn't like to be contaminated by the imperfect. Self-absorbed.

BYSTANDER: Average common sense citizen.

JANITOR: Humble, unassuming and wise.

(COSTUMES: The Superheroes should wear something that underscores their character and the over-the-top idea, i.e. cape, mask, etc. Janitor can wear anything that implies a humble worker in the service industry.)

(SOUND: There are no required sound cues, however sound effects and clips from cartoons could be added to enhance the comedy and the Superhero idea.)

LIGHTS UP:

Upstage JANITOR crosses while sweeping.

Then BYSTANDER enters and crosses downstage.

An alarm sounds. Immediately the three SUPERHEROES enter upstage. They rudely push past the Janitor.

EXAMPLE

Make way Janitor.

TRUTH

There is an emergency.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Help is needed. Clean elsewhere.

Janitor moves aside.

TRUTH

SUPERPEEPS GATHER! We have an intruder alarm!

EXAMPLE

Intruder?!

The Superheroes huddle upstage,
(preferably on blocks or a riser). As
they talk they stare down on the
BYSTANDER as though they are high
above. Bystander remains unaware of the
others until approached directly.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Someone new has moved into our neighborhood.

They gasp.

TRUTH

We must act quickly! Roll Call!

They each call out their name with a
corresponding heroic pose.

TRUTH

TRUTH!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOCIAL JUSTICE!

EXAMPLE

And THE EXAMPLE!

ALL

READY FOR ACTION!

Bystander sits reading.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Oh look at that poor soul. She's probably lost! She needs my
help. I bet she doesn't know anyone.

TRUTH

More importantly, does she know what is true? Does she know the Master?

EXAMPLE

Truth you are so right. She needs someone to show her-- otherwise soon she will be infecting everyone with her not so perfect ways.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

But maybe she doesn't know better.

EXAMPLE

That's where I come in. I will show her THE WAY! I will be her guide, For I alone am...THE EXAMPLE!

Example jumps down and crosses very proudly to the Bystander.

EXAMPLE

(gesturing to himself)

Behold!

BYSTANDER

Uh...behold what?

EXAMPLE

Behold me!

Again Example gestures to his perfect self.

BYSTANDER

Ok. I behold you. Now what?

EXAMPLE

Behold me and learn! See the special clothing I wear? See how different I am? Here is a list of all the things I don't do. I am set apart. I am unique. For I am...THE EXAMPLE!

BYSTANDER

Ok. Example of what? A dork?

EXAMPLE

What?! No! I am THE EXAMPLE of all things right and good. Don't you want to be like me?

BYSTANDER

Uh, no. Sorry.

Example falls back as if being blasted by an invisible force.

EXAMPLE

What!?! Why?

BYSTANDER

Well for starters, you're arrogant.

Again Example is blasted by the invisible force.

Example walks off defeated and returns to the others.

Bystander goes back to reading.

TRUTH

I can perceive that your encounter did not go well.

EXAMPLE

Not at all. She doesn't seem interested.

The others gasp.

EXAMPLE

I know. It was horrible...and AND she said I was arrogant.

TRUTH

Yes. That is true.

EXAMPLE

What? Not you too!

(to Social Justice)

And what about you?

SOCIAL JUSTICE

I thought that's what you were going for.

EXAMPLE

No. NO! How am I arrogant? People ask, what would the Master do? And they need only look upon me to show them. I'm not arrogant, I'm just perfect--uh, because He is perfect, for I am... I AM... I AM THE...

Example breaks down bawling.

EXAMPLE

(still crying)

I was the Example.

Janitor crosses and gives Example a tissue. Example acknowledges the gesture

TRUTH

Well obviously not a very good one.

Example shoots Truth a look. Truth doesn't notice.

During the following exchange, Truth builds with momentum until he must act.

TRUTH

That's right I just call it like I see it. That's my job.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

I've got it! I will go and talk to her and see what great help I can be. Surely everyone needs my help!

TRUTH

Nonsense! Your ways are wimpy, silly and saccharine. Stand back, she may not be ready for the Truth, but oh just wait, for I will shove it down her throat! I will use my web of confrontation and see what she does or does not know.

Truth jumps down, and confronts Bystander.

TRUTH

Halt! What is the first doctrine?

BYSTANDER

What the what?

TRUTH

FALSE! What is the greatest commandment?

BYSTANDER

Uh, I don't know...don't text and drive?

TRUTH

FALSE! You are lost and deceived.

BYSTANDER

Well you are condemning and judgemental

TRUTH

TRUE! Wait, what?

BYSTANDER

and not very loving.

TRUTH

Huh? Not loving? But I'm commanded to be loving.

BYSTANDER

Well you're not.

Truth grabs his head as if suddenly being stricken with a massive cluster headache. The pain is too much.

Truth stumbles back to the others.

TRUTH

She-said-not-loving

The other two shake their heads in agreement.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

She's got you there.

Truth feels more pain.

EXAMPLE

(bitter)

What? Can't handle the truth?

TRUTH

You- guys- not- helping.

Janitor hands Truth some aspirin and water. Truth acknowledges.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

I'm not here to help you, I'm here to help them. Off I go.

(Standing, raising an arm, as if an incantation)

By the POWER OF PROGRAMS!!!!

Social Justice grabs some packages crosses to the Bystander.

EXAMPLE

(mocking)

This ought to be good.

TRUTH

She- clueless.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

(to the Bystander)

Here! Have some donated expired chocolate.

(shoving it in Bystanders mouth)

Don't you feel better?

BYSTANDER

What? NO! Ew! Tastes like dirt-

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Here! A donated coat. Are you warm?

BYSTANDER

Yes I'm warm, it's eighty degrees out here.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Is there anyone more helpful than I?

BYSTANDER

Is this a joke?

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Joke? No I'm here to help.

BYSTANDER

Help? No, don't.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Oh, you're not thinking right.

(moving closer to Bystander,
almost smothering)

You don't know what's good for you. I know what your need.

BYSTANDER

Get away from me. I don't want your help. You are so
condescending.

With each phrase from Bystander, Social
Justice doubles over as if having been
shot.

Social Justice crawls back to the
others.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

I was just trying to be helpful.

TRUTH

Well obviously, you made things worse.

EXAMPLE

That was an example of what NOT to do.

Again Social Justice doubles in pain.

Janitor crosses and puts a blanket
around Social Justice.

There is a beat as they each sulk--
defeated and discouraged.

EXAMPLE

We are so dumb, we are really dumb.

TRUTH

For real.

EXAMPLE

Being a Superhero is hard.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Yeah I don't like it anymore.

TRUTH

It's not worth it.

Example lays down on his side. Janitor brings him a pillow.

EXAMPLE

Thanks Janitor you're a good friend.

TRUTH

True that.

JANITOR

What's wrong?

TRUTH

You wouldn't understand.

EXAMPLE

You don't know what it's like to be me.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

We try to help people all the time but we're never appreciated.

Beat.

JANITOR

Why don't you try showing them?

EXAMPLE

(jumping up)

What?! What do you think I was doing? I was showing them, duh, I am...THE EXAMPLE!

JANITOR

No I mean really show them. Show them something they will want to be a part of.

TRUTH

Right. How can we show them when the truth is, they don't want anything to do with us?

JANITOR

Why don't you use your powers here? Practice on each other?

EXAMPLE

Practice! Ha! We don't need practice. We grew up in this! Our parents were Superheroes.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Silly Janitor, why would we waste our powers here when there are so many people to help out there?

JANITOR

Didn't the Master say that people will know that you belong to Him by the love you have for one another?

TRUTH

Hey don't try to quote the Master's words to me. I know them all.

JANITOR

Do you know them?

(he points to Truth's head)

Or do you know them?

(he points to Truth's heart)

He also said a tree is known by it's fruit. And the TRUTH you guys gossip about each other, you bicker and complain and you don't care for one another.

EXAMPLE

What do you know? You're just the Janitor, what Superpowers do you have?

TRUTH

Yeah!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Yeah!

JANITOR

The only thing I know is that

(to Truth)

You must use truth to build people up not tear them down.

(to Example)

Because you want to point people to the Master, not yourselves

(to Social Justice)

You can't look down on people because they need help--we all need help.

The Superheroes are starting to get the idea.

JANITOR

We must learn to love one another, here, now, so we can share it with the world. If love is not already in you, they can tell right away.

They can? TRUTH

Yes they can. JANITOR

Wow. SOCIAL JUSTICE

JANITOR
 No one likes to be treated like a project. When you really spend time with people and learn to love them, you will know how to help, how to guide, and what to teach.

The Superheroes are dumbfounded.

Bystander has been watching and knocks on an imaginary open door downstage.

Hello? BYSTANDER

Janitor walks downstage.

BYSTANDER
 I just wanted to say, I think it's really neat how you take care of those guys. It's very inspiring. Is this some sort of home for wayward children or a center for troubled people?

Sort of... JANITOR

Really? What do you call it? BYSTANDER

The Church. JANITOR

Church, huh. I want to know more. BYSTANDER

The Janitor and the Bystander walk off together.

LIGHTS FADE AND/OR MUSIC IN

END.