

The Secret

In this role play, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin are close friends with Bob and Lisa Sanders. Both couples are long-time members of the same church, pastored by Rev. Evans.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanders and Rev. and Mrs. Evans are having dinner at the Benjamin's house Saturday night. A few days before the dinner, while Mrs. Benjamin is out shopping, she notices a commotion at the exit. Apparently someone is being stopped for shoplifting. To Mrs. Benjamin's amazement that someone is Lisa Sanders. Shocked and embarrassed, Mrs. Benjamin darts out of the store not knowing whether Lisa saw her or not.

Mrs. Benjamin feels very close to

Lisa and plans to discuss the matter privately with her. But she is worried that such a discussion might damage their relationship.

Mr. Benjamin does not think his wife should mention it and believes it should be forgotten.

Bob Sanders has no idea his wife is shoplifting. The knowledge of it would humiliate him, and he would have a difficult time understanding or forgiving.

Lisa Sanders knows that Mrs. Benjamin saw her and wants desperately to get help from her friends but is afraid her husband, Bob, could not handle it.

Rev. Evans is totally unaware of Lisa Sanders' problem.

Mrs. Evans has a difficult time

accepting that Christians sin—especially a sin like shoplifting.

The Situation: Just as the three couples sit down for dessert, the Benjamin's teenage son runs in saying loudly, "Hey, Mom, Sonny just told me that Mrs. Sanders got arrested for shoplift—" (he suddenly see Mr. and Mrs. Sanders).

Choose actors for the role play after

you read the situation to the group. Let the actors respond spontaneously to the situation. When you sense the momentum of the play slowing, stop the role play and discuss what happened. Ask the role players to discuss what they were feeling, and then get comments from the group.