



Pop goes CATHOLICISM Resource Sheet

"Falling in Love"

The Secret Life of the American Teenager

Media Information

Season: 1
Episode: 1
Year Aired: 2008

Description

This hour drama tells the stories of a group of high school students. Amy is a freshman who's now pregnant after having sex once with a boy she barely knows. Grace is a committed Christian who's promised her parents to be abstinent until marriage. Jack is Grace's boyfriend who's chafing at waiting. Ricky is the boy who impregnated Amy during one of his serial conquests that's connected to his being sexually abused by his father. Ben is the freshman who wanted to find someone to have sex with and so asked Amy out only to fall for her.

Faith Connection

Everything the Church teaches can be 'bumper stickered,' such as "Don't have sex outside marriage." And yet, also with everything the Church teaches, there's the breadth of vision and beauty of truth that underlies the short hand. This TV series pilot presents a portrait of the various situations that make up the context of the Church's teaching on sexuality. The Church teaches that intercourse is not only the most intimate physical act, but is much more: properly a complete self-giving that only makes sense in marriage. The students in this show demonstrate the many ways contemporary American culture gets it wrong: that sex makes you feel better about yourself (Ricky), that sex is always beautiful/romantic/positive (Amy's misconceptions that led to her pregnancy), that sex is safe (Amy's pregnancy), that sex is something the temptation of which cannot be avoided (Jack), that sex is a worthy goal of itself (Ben, at first). The only characterization that gets sex right is Ben's, who goes from looking for sex to falling in love and then not thinking about sex because he's more concerned about Amy. Finally, this episode overall demonstrates the most pervasive problem we have about sex: being obsessed with it!

Discussion Questions

1. What sources have most influenced your views of sexual intercourse?
2. Have you ever evaluated those sources? Do so.
3. Have you considered that sex is more than physical? Why or why not?
4. How do you make your sexual decisions? Is it the best way?
5. What's your idea of chastity? Could there be more to it?

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Scripture:

Genesis 1:27
John 15:12

Catechism:

#2332
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