



## Pop goes CATHOLICISM Resource Sheet

# "The Barbarian Sublimation" The Big Bang Theory

### Media Information

**Season:** 2  
**Episode:** 3  
**Year Aired:** 2008

### Description

This show features Leonard & Sheldon (theoretical physicist roommates), Howard and Raj (their friends, an engineer and astrophysicist), and Penny (the beautiful girl who moved in across the hall. In this episode, Penny, who's not feeling very good about her life, discovers MMORPGs (Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games) and becomes addicted. She drives Sheldon crazy with her obsessive gameplay until she realizes she needs help when she agrees to 'quest' with Howard, the smartiest of the group that Penny normally can't stand.

### Faith Connection

From the first time I saw this episode when it originally aired on TV (in full disclosure I'm a huge fan of this show) I knew it would make a good PGC. It did take me a bit to nail down just how and why. Two obvious issues are escape and balance, but where does that connect to our faith? Then I realized, the MMORPG had become the most important thing in Penny's life, even to the exclusion of knowing what day it was! Put that way, the connection is clear: idolatry and priorities. The very first commandment (remember them? there are ten) states: "I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me; you shall not make for yourself an idol." How many of us escape the parts of our life that we don't like by making an idol of something else? Marriage problems avoided by 'focusing on the kids.' Afraid of getting hurt again, dating avoided by 'focusing on my studies.' Unwillingness to acknowledge loneliness becomes workaholicism. And yet, the first rule is put God first. How? Through prayer, Church, and love. Notice that all three of those involve connection, with God and with others; no hiding allowed.

### Discussion Questions

1. What parts of your life would you like to hide from?
2. Why is it so hard to face those parts right now?
3. Is the idea of 'putting God first' hard to get? Why?
4. What do you need to do to make sure that God is first in your life?
5. Do you think that putting God first will help face the things in #1? Why?

### Related

#### Scripture:

Exodus 20:1-6  
Mark 12:28-34

#### Catechism:

#2067  
#2113

