



Pop goes CATHOLICISM Resource Sheet

"Man vs Possum" Parenthood

Media Information

Season: 1
Episode: 2
Year Aired: 2010

Description

Parenthood tells the stories of a large family that struggles with different aspects of parenting: single parent of teens, working mom, and the couple of this PGC whose son has Asperger's, on the autism spectrum. In this episode they get a definitive diagnosis and when the dad goes right into 'how do we fix him' the doctor replies that the first step is to "enter his world and when he's ready bring him into ours." The episode ends with a beautiful scene of the dad dressing up like a pirate (which his son demands to do every day) and playing with him in their backyard.

Related

Scripture:

Isaiah 49:13-15
Philippians 2:5-8

Catechism:

#2378
#459

Faith Connection

Setting aside the (at times perfectly reasonable) gender or individual reasons for rejecting "God the Father" usage, I want to spend a moment reflecting on the concept of God as parent. Whether father or mother, parents are supposed to first love their kids. While we're familiar with the idea that parents guide their kids (even disciplining is Biblical - Proverbs 23), I think it's sometimes a bit foreign to some to treat kids like people, due the respect owed to the dignity of being human. In this episode the parents must go to where their child is in love and hope that eventually he can be brought to the wider world. How like the Incarnation! God came to where we were in order to show us the Way, in love and in hope that we would follow Jesus' example, not with coercion or punishment but acceptance and love.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you relate to kids?
2. What do you think makes a good parent?
3. What do you think of God as parent?
4. If a parent, do you see your kids first where they are or where you wish they were?
5. How did your parents relate to you? Do you think that effects your view of God?

