



Pop goes CATHOLICISM Resource Sheet

"Game Changer" Modern Family

Media Information

Season: 1
Episode: 19
Year Aired: 2010

Description

Modern Family is an American sitcom that tells the stories of three very different kinds of families that are nevertheless related to each other. While much of this episode focuses on Phil Dunfy's birthday wish for an iPad, the focus of this PGC is on Phil's father-in-law Jay and his much younger beautiful Columbian wife Gloria. Jay discovers that Gloria has been throwing their chess matches for fear that his ego couldn't handle being beaten by her. Thus, they have a rematch at Phil's birthday party.

Faith Connection

Sometimes as Christians we are called to 'be Jesus' or 'love like Jesus.' That can sound so intimidating, can't it? Like being expected to do something really big or important. And yet, I think the love of Jesus is expressed/realized just as meaningfully in little, seemingly unimportant, acts. Acts like mutually agreeing to discontinue a chess match for the sake of a relationship. In this episode, Gloria allows Jay to toss the board aside, ending the game prematurely, even though they both know she was soon to win. Why? "I'm an even better wife than chess player," Gloria says. She sacrifices her win for love of her husband. Jesus sacrifices his life for love of all of us. While Gloria's act might seem paltry in comparison, it is of love and of Jesus. Anytime we prioritize love or someone else over ourselves we 'are Jesus' in the little just as much as the big.

Discussion Questions

1. How competitive are you? Why?
2. More important to be: right or loving? Why?
3. Have you ever sacrificed something to spare someone else's feelings? Why or why not?
4. How do you feel about losing?
5. What do you think about the idea that your small acts of sacrificial love are Jesus-like?

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Scripture:

John 13:34
Matthew 25:40

Catechism:

#1823
#561

