

youthESource Drama

Whatever

by Tawn Bueltmann

For Lent 3, Lectionary Series B, based on John 2:13-22

Focus: Is getting angry a sin? As we look at God's Word, we read about a time when Jesus—the perfect, sinless Son of God—got angry. So we know that anger isn't always a sin. Through this story, we learn that God is serious about sin. We also learn a “whatever” mnemonic that helps us focus on what to think about!

Characters: Father and son

Setting: family room with TV or screen, couch or bean bag chair

(Son is focused on screen and the video game he's playing. Dad walks into the living room after coming home from work.)

Dad: Hey, Connor. Good to see you!

Connor: Whatever.

Dad: Whatcha playin'?

Connor: (mumbling indistinctly)

Dad: Wait! Is that blood?

Connor: Whatever.

Dad: This doesn't look like a good game to play!

Connor: Whatever.

Dad: When you get to a stopping point, let's talk about this.

Connor: Whatever.

(Dad sighs and looks heavenward as if asking God for wisdom.)

(Connor stops the game and turns towards his dad.)

Connor: So. You never played video games when you were a kid?

Dad: Oh, I played video games. They were more along the lines of a little yellow ball roaming around and gobbling up monsters. The competition of it all is fun, isn't it?

Connor: Yeah.

Dad: It would be nice to find some fun games you could play that didn't have violence or weapons or gore in them.

Connor: Whatever.

Dad: I notice you keep saying that word. Whatever. That reminds me of a Bible verse. Do you know the one I mean?

Connor: I know the one you mean. You and Mom bring it up often enough I have it memorized!

Dad: You do? That's great! How does it go?

Connor: (Connor counts off the letters on his fingers) T-H-J-P-L-C-E-WOP ... The high jump pole likes crashing easily – WOP! Think.

Dad: What?!!!

Connor: That's how I remember the order. The first letter of each word is the same as the whatever. "Whatever is True, whatever is Honorable, whatever is Just, whatever is Pure, whatever is Lovely, whatever is Commendable, if there is any Excellence, if there is anything Worthy Of Praise, Think about these things."

Dad: That's amazing! You have that memorized!

Connor: Yep.

Dad: How does that apply to video games?

Connor: Whatever, Dad. I don't know.

Dad: It can be a challenge to find entertainment that's honorable, pure, commendable... But it's a good goal! Maybe someday you could develop a game that fits those criteria!

Connor: Maybe. Dad, how come sometimes you get really angry about the games I play?

Dad: Good question. You know God has given your mom and me the responsibility to raise you (Dad makes quotes in the air) "in the fear and admonition of the Lord." Sometimes the games you choose aren't really God-pleasing. They don't fit the "whatever" verse. Where's that from? One of Paul's books?

Connor: Yeah. Philippians 4:8. But isn't it a sin to get angry?

Dad: No, Connor. The Bible tells us that even Jesus, who never sinned, got angry. He got plenty mad at the money-changers who were cheating people right in God's temple. But Jesus didn't sin. God is perfect and He expects us to be perfect. (Which we can't be.... So good thing Jesus took our place and died on the cross for us). Paul talks about anger, too. "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger." It's possible to be angry without it being sinful.

Connor: Cool.

Dad: Your mom and I do get angry about sin sometimes... like God does. Your sin and our own. With God's help, we can say no to sin and yes to good things. And every day we remember our baptism and how God forgives us and helps us get a fresh start.

Connor: OK.

Dad: How about a game on the old Atari? Something that meets the standard of "The high jump pole likes crashing easily – WOP!"

Connor: Sure. Let's do it.

(Father and son turn towards monitor/screen and freeze.)