

youthESource Drama

3:16

by Tawn Bueltmann

For Lent 4, Lectionary Series B, based on John 3:14-21

Focus: The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (I Cor. 1:18) When people ask, it's good to be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you and do it with gentleness and respect. (I Peter 3:15)

Character: Young man watching end of football game on TV.

Setting: A family room. Props needed include a TV screen and a cell phone.

Cole: 3:16. Why do I keep seeing that at games? I know! Google! (He Googles on his smartphone)

Cole: Ah! It must be from the Bible. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

(Looks up at audience.) Now what does it even mean? Such old, archaic language! (Reading from phone) God loved the world...so He gave His only Son. (Looks up) Who'd He give Him to, I wonder? Makes no sense. (Reads again) "That whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

(To audience) Perish? Eternal life? What are they even talking about? (Flips through verses) 3:15's talking about snakes. Weird. I know! I'll call Zach. He's a Christian. (Dials)

Cole: Hey, Zach. How ya doin'? This is Cole. (Pause) Great! Hey, I have a question for you. You know how it seems most every ballgame has a 3:16 sign? I looked it up and can't figure out what they're talking about.

(Pause)

Cole: Yeah. I figured that much out. John 3:16. From the Bible. I looked it up, but why would people make signs and paint it on their forehead?

(Long Pause; Cole gets comfortable)

Cole: So you think that's all true? Jesus and everything?

(Pause)

Cole: What's this about snakes? 3:15 talks about some guy named Moses lifting up a serpent in the wilderness. That's just creepy!

(Long pause)

Cole: So let me see if I've got this right. The people were dying and Moses asked God to save them and God said, "If you put a snake made out of gold up on a tall stick and the people look at it, they'll be saved." And Jesus was lifted up on a cross to die and if we look to Him, we'll be saved. Is that about right? Not really needing to see Jesus on the cross in real life because that happened thousands of years ago, right?

(Pause)

Cole: So that's pretty big—that He rose up from the dead. Weird, man. Like the “Walking Dead.”

(Listens)

Cole: OK. Got it. I'll read the book of John. I'm sure I'll have plenty more questions.

(pause)

Cole: OK. Thanks. Cya around!

(Cole hangs up)

Cole: He said he'll pray for me! This seems pretty far out there. But there HAS to be a Creator who made all this. And Zach seems really sincere about it and he's about the nicest guy I know. I'm going to do what he said and read John. Who knows what I'll learn?