UNLESS

(Lights rise slightly. The sound of a news broadcast fills the barren stage, as voiceovers of report after report is given)

REPORTER #1: Welcome and good afternoon. I'm here in front of today's Kansas City's Gay Pride Parade, where there are many smiles and yet many scowls, as the Westover Baptist Church is yet again picketing another event –
REPORTER #2: Tensions continue to grow between those of the community and the Westover Baptist Church as signs with hateful slogans continue to color the community –
REPORTER #3: Yet again, the Westover Baptist Church is picketing at the funeral of a fallen soldier, thanking God that this man can no longer take up arms –

(Voiceover reports begin to quicken and overlap)

REPORTER #4: Even children of these individuals carry around the signs, some as young as 3 years old –
REPORTER #1: Their message is to let the world know that God does not approve of the lifestyle these people are choosing to live –
REPORTER #2: The families of the fallen are not able to morn without hearing the yells from across the cemetery –
REPORTER #3: It's the New Crusade, according to those in the church, to heavy-handedly let the world know of their sins –
REPORTER #4: Some question if this is the revolution Jesus intended to start –
REPORTER #1: The church stood outside of an abortion clinic today, damning any person to come and go as a murderer –
REPORTER #2: Adulterer –
REPORTER #3: Fornicator –
REPORTER #4: Enemy of God –
REPORTER #1: Wicked –
REPORTER #2: Damned –
REPORTER #3: Faggot.
REPORTER #4: We can only wonder when the hate will cease…

(Penny walks briskly to the center stage. She smiles kindly at the audience.)

PENNY: Hello. Sorry. I was just listening to the news. Our church is making headlines again, which is always wonderful to help get the word of God out! Protests we've found to be one of the greatest ways to raise awareness for what

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God is saying. "You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free!" *(beat)* I'm sorry again. Where are my manners? My name is Penny Richards, and it is lovely to be with you all today. I am happily married to my husband, George, whom I met at our Christian College at one of those speed dating events. I know – typical. And of course, we fell in love… When did I know he was the one? The second week of freshman year. *(beat)* No, I did not just go there to get my MRS. Degree. I have my Bachelors in Fine Arts, but yes, I do not work. George provides the Richards family with our necessary income, working as a math teacher at the Christian school our son attends. He's a wonderful teacher, and for that matter, we have a wonderful boy. Our greatest blessing from God is our son, David. When we named him after the great King of Israel, we knew he was destined for great things. He's at the top of his 9th grade class, is a great soccer player, star of the theater program, and is on student council *and* is running for student government next year. Yes, we are indeed proud. I remember when he was born like it was yesterday. The doctor put him into my arms, and I knew that he was the most beautiful creation God could have given me and my husband. We couldn't have asked for anything more in this world. And apparently for God, one was enough, as George and I haven't seemed to be able to get pregnant again. *(beat)* We claim God took the greatness of a few normal children and placed all of it into one boy – our little Davey.

(A young boy walks onto the stage and interrupts)

YOUNG DAVID: Mom?
PENNY: Yes, Davey?
YOUNG DAVID: I'm finished with my Bible memorization.
PENNY: *(to audience)* Even from a young age he was always the best student. *(to YOUNG DAVID)* Good, honey! Can I hear it?
YOUNG DAVID: 1 Corinthians 6: 9-10. "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."
PENNY: That's wonderful, baby!
YOUNG DAVID: What does it mean?
PENNY: It means that the bad people who don't love God don't go to heaven.
YOUNG DAVID: Will I go to heaven?
PENNY: Are you going to do anything bad?
YOUNG DAVID: No.
PENNY: Then you have nothing to fear. *(she kisses him on the forehead)* Just keep listening to mommy and daddy and God's Word.
YOUNG DAVID: Okay!
PENNY: I love you, Davey.
YOUNG DAVID: I love you too, mommy!

(YOUNG DAVID runs off the stage)

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