“But Mom and Dad say it’s OK,” Ava said. “And we’ve been playing it forever!”

“Ava tried to hand his controller back. “You’re just saying that because you won,” she said. “Come on. One more level.”

Skyler shook his head. “I don’t think we should play it anymore.”

Ava watched Skyler pull the game from the console. Her mouth dropped open in shock. “Ava!”

Skyler shrugged. “It doesn’t make me feel good when I play it.”

“But Mom and Dad say it’s OK!” Ava said. “And we’ve been playing it forever!”

“I think we should get rid of it so we don’t play it again.”

Skyler gently took the game from her hand. “OK,” he said. “We have lots of good games to play instead. Maybe we won’t even miss it.”

Ava just stared, not believing Skyler would give up playing the game.

The next day Ava went to the family room to play the game. Then she remembered. Skyler had hidden it.

“Ava?” Skyler asked. He leaned into the room, smiling. “Dad says we can’t beat him at basketball. Want to prove him wrong?”

Ava glanced down at the drawer. She thought a moment. The video game was fun. But it didn’t make her or her siblings feel good.

Ava smiled. “Yeah!” she said. She closed the drawer, and the two raced out of the bedroom, leaving the game behind.

The Hidden VIDEO Game

By Margo Mae
(Based on a true story)

“Everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ” (Moroni 7:16).

The word winner flashed across the TV screen. Ava had lost. Again.

Ava frowned at her brother Skyler and hit the start button on her video game controller. “Let’s play again.”

The game quickly started a new level. This time they were in an abandoned warehouse. Bad guys would be hiding everywhere. Ava shivered with delight and gripped her controller tightly.

But Skyler set his controller down. “I’m done playing,” he said.

Ava tried to hand his controller back. “You’re just saying that because you won,” she said. “Come on. One more level.”

Skyler shrugged. “It doesn’t make me feel good when I play it.”

“But Mom and Dad say it’s OK!” Ava said. “And we’ve been playing it forever!”

“I think we should get rid of it so we don’t play it again.”

Skyler said it didn’t make him feel good. Ava thought about it. Maybe he was right. Sometimes after playing the game, she would argue with Betsy more or be angry at Skyler for winning. She hadn’t felt good either. She just hadn’t noticed until now. Ava put the game back in the drawer and set a stack of shirts on top.

“Ava!” Skyler called. He leaned into the room, smiling. “Dad says we can’t beat him at basketball. Want to prove him wrong?”

Ava glanced down at the drawer. She thought a moment. The video game was fun. But it didn’t make her or her siblings feel good.

Ava smiled. “Yeah!” she said. She closed the drawer, and the two raced out of the bedroom, leaving the game behind.

The Hidden VIDEO Game

Illustrations by Soledad Otero

I checked out a library book that I had a feeling I shouldn’t read. I started reading anyway, and soon the main character took the Lord’s name in vain. I decided I would stop reading. I wasn’t sure I wouldn’t get to the end of the book, but I had a good feeling that I was doing the right thing!

Miranda J., age 9, Oklahoma, USA

August 2016

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