



# Helping Your Child Learn to Discern Right and Wrong in Entertainment



Teaching your child truth is best done a little at a time. While watching movies or TV, be on the lookout for situations and characters that could provide teachable moments. Ask questions to see what they are thinking:

- *What do you think of that character's actions? Were they good, bad, or neutral?*
- *What do you think about the way he or she handled that situation? What might a better way to handle that?*
- *Was his decision a good one?*
- *What does the Bible say about that?*

When it's time for lunch or dinner, pull the trash can to the table and start looking through it for something to eat. Offer something to your child and look puzzled when he/she rejects it. Ask: *Why don't you want to eat out of the garbage can? Why is it just as important to be careful about what you put into your mind? Say something like: If we wouldn't put bad things (garbage) into our bodies, we must be careful not to let bad things into our minds. What you put into your mind stays there and will affect what you do. What are some things we shouldn't let into our minds? What are some things we should let in our minds?* (Find some guidelines in Philippians 4:8).

As you are watching TV with your kids, talk about the commercials and the desire for more things. Some questions to ask:

- *What do advertisers want you to do? (buy their product)*
- *Have you ever purchased something that didn't live up to its advertising? Is it possible to have too many things?*
- *Does buying things make you happy? What do you really need to be happy?*

Read about a man who wanted more and more things, but was unwilling to share with God or others (Luke 12:15-21). Life is more than getting stuff; life is about putting God and His kingdom first. Things will never bring us the happiness we want; trusting in God is the only way to have lasting joy.





Learn to identify the worldview of the characters and storytellers.

- Is there a respect for God-ordained authority and morality?
- Is there justice? What is the measure of right and wrong?
- Are the “good guys” good? Are you being encouraged to hope the “bad guy” wins?

Entertainment is not necessarily bad, but we must guide our children to be discerning consumers of it.

