



MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT, Part 1 What Goes in Stays In

June 14, 2025

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Deuteronomy 23:14 (NIV) • “For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.”

Job 8:6 (NIV) • “If you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your prosperous state.”

Job 14:4 (NIV) • “Who can bring what is pure from the impure? No one!”

Habakkuk 1:13 (NIV) • “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?”

Matthew 5:8 (NIV) • “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Philippians 2:15 (NIV) • “So that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.”

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV) • “Flee the evil desires of

youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

James 3:17 (NIV) • “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

1 Corinthians 10:23 (NIV) • “‘I have the right to do anything,’ you say—but not everything is beneficial. ‘I have the right to do anything’—but not everything is constructive.”

James 1:15 (NIV) • “Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

(See additional passages in student material.)

B. WHAT’S TO BE SAID ABOUT “MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT, PART 1”

Today’s youth culture is rampant with images of violence, sex, unkindness, and vulgarity. Yet the statistics on television viewing and Internet surfing are simply staggering.

- By age 18 a U.S. youth will have seen 16,000 simulated murders and 200,000 acts of violence (APA).

- According to a survey of almost 1,300 seventh graders, half of the boys and a quarter of the girls reported spending an average of more than 42 hours a week in front of electronic

screens (taken from <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Healthday/story?id=4510769&page=1> on October 8, 2014).

So what do we do as a Christian community to counteract what our children are seeing and hearing? We have to become proactive in our understanding of what is available to them, what are the alternatives, and we have to teach our young people to make good decisions. It is no longer enough to simply say “Don’t watch,” because they, or someone they talk to on a regular basis, are watching. The challenge is how to teach our young people to discern between what is good and what is not good for them when it comes to the media. (See 1 Corinthians 10:23.)

This week we focus on how to help the young people in your church see the media for what it is, a money-making industry that, by and large, does not care about the individual, but rather, cares about the bottom line. We will also spend some time on the meaning of “discernment” and on some guidelines for the type of media to which God could approve our exposing ourselves.

C. WHERE WE’RE GOING WITH “MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT, PART 1”

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Grasp the intent of those who make the things we see.
2. Understand the idea of discernment.
3. Develop a personal plan (or a better rubric) for making good decisions about the media.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) director’s chair, paper, pencils; (Activity B) Bibles, top-10 lists, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons.

Applying • Bibles.

2 BRIDGING

A. WHERE WE’VE BEEN BEFORE

Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at www.realtimefaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Have a director’s chair front and center in the room. Divide your students into groups of two or three and distribute paper and pens/pencils.

Get set • Give the students 5-10 minutes to come up with an idea for either a television program or a movie. Have them be as thorough as they can be in the time allotted, and tell them their ideas will be judged in three categories. They should consider things such as (1) what would make the

production rich in educational content for children and youth, (2) how it would present truth, and (3) how it would help someone come to know Jesus.

Go • Then listen to their responses and evaluate together each product based on how you think God would respond to it.

Debriefing • Make the point that when the media creators try to produce something that will be popular, it is probably not going to be something beneficial or of high-quality, moral content. Those who create the TV programs and movies do not expect that people will view them based on what is good for them and what is bad for them.

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Have a white/chalkboard with the numbers 1-10 written on it. Feel free to have more than one list; you can include a top-ten list for music, movies, and television.

Get set • Choose students to write the lists on the board as the other students call out songs, television programs, or productions that they think God would approve of.

Go • See how many of them choose Christ-themed media. Then ask them to make a top-10 list of Bible verses without opening their Bibles. As the students call out the texts, make sure you look them up and read them.

Debriefing • **Ask:** How easy or difficult was it to come up with songs, TV shows, etc. that you think would honor God? Why do you think that was? How easy or difficult was it to come up with favorite Bible texts? Was that harder or easier than coming up with the other lists? What are ways of relaxing and recharging that have the qualities of something that can be good for you, but also entertaining?

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

A television network just had a show in which they auditioned hundreds, if not thousands, of people who were looking to be the next superstar. The only twist in this series was that they were looking for the worst singers in order to make fun of them. They took them through the entire auditioning process, gave them makeovers, took them to Hollywood, and put them in front of thousands of people. Then they continued to embarrass them by revealing the joke on national TV and in front of a live audience. The look of utter disappointment and disgust on these contestants' faces was heart wrenching. This show was highly rated for this network.

Debriefing • **Ask:** As Christians, what should be our response to this kind of entertainment? (Fun at others' expense is wrong, and this was on a grand scale.) **What would you say to one of the contestants of this show? How can we support things like this that are so blatantly out of the realm of what God would have us do? The easy answer might be "turn it off," but is that enough? How can you be a positive influence on someone else that is addicted to music/TV/video games, etc.?**

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

If we are truly intending to be citizens of God's kingdom while living here on this earth where the evil kingdom is all around us, we are going to have to be intentional about feeding our minds with media input that grows and supports our ties to God's kingdom. It's like when a family moves to a country where a different language is spoken. The members of the family who mix in the society most pick up the new

language the fastest. The members of the family who only speak in the language they are used to have a much harder time feeling a part of the new society. We are born with inherited evil tendencies as a consequence of the fall when sin entered into this world. Human nature naturally speaks that language. When we choose to be part of God's kingdom or country, we must start speaking that language more than our old one so that we remember where we belong now. So that we soon "speak like a native."

Ask: The media is a presence in our lives; we cannot deny it. But what are some alternatives to sitting in front of the television every night? How creative can you be when it comes to how you are entertained? Do you have to continually depend on others to make this life interesting for you?

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the information from Sabbath's section of the lesson.

Ask students to share how many hours they spent watching TV during the previous week. The numbers just might frighten all of you. Then ask them how much time they had spent talking with their parents doing their homework, studying the Word of God, working, etc.

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenario:

All your friends have decided to rent a movie during a Saturday night get-together. The only problem is that they all would like to see a movie that you have decided a while ago not to see. While the movie has received rave reviews, they are very up-front about the content of the movie, which includes mild violence, themes of revenge, and (what Christians would call) inappropriate relationships.

Ask: What do you do? Do you leave the house? How do you stand up for what you think is right? Are your friends doing something evil simply because they have not chosen to discern the problems with what they watch as much as you do?

Say: Chances are you will be in this situation or one like it a few times before you reach the age of 18. **Ask:** How do you handle this type of scenario? What would Jesus do? Let's read 1 Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it" (NIV).

5 APPLYING

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Give each one of the groups in your Sabbath School a text to look up and apply for the other groups. Here is a list of texts:

1. **Matthew 5:27-29**
2. **1 John 2:15-17**
3. **James 1:15**
4. **Ephesians 4:29-5:16**

Have each group give a one- to two-minute presentation on the guiding principles in these passages and how they offer criteria for discriminating between media choices that are worthless and those that have some value spiritually, morally, and educationally. The connections you see might be very interesting. Encourage students to begin to think about the difference between a biblical way of thinking and a worldly way of thinking. This is where students will begin to think critically about those things they are allowing themselves to watch.

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Does TV distort your view of how things are in reality?
2. How are the qualities of the heroes portrayed in movies? Are they usually Christlike?
3. Who are some Bible heroes who display truly Christlike character traits and whom you can look up to for positive influence and guidance?
4. How can you live in today's world and not be bombarded with images that are inappropriate for a Christian to spend time looking at?
5. What guiding principles can you use to determine whether a TV program/song/game is appropriate for a Christian?
6. What can help you make good decisions about the media?
7. Have you ever seen Christian movies that were worth watching?
8. Do you listen to Christian music?
9. What makes you, a Christian, different from any other consumer of mass media marketing?

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

These thoughts are for you, the teacher. Share with your students your intentions and your purpose as a Christian mentor:

The media is something we will have to deal with every day for the rest of our lives. Our job as mentors is to help young people understand what they are watching and to help them make good decisions about their viewing and listening habits. This is a process. It is also a relationship with God. The more your students get to know Christ, the more willing they are to change their behavior when it comes to what they experience in the media. Therefore, it is important that we continually point them toward a grace relationship with Jesus Christ. As you see them enter into a better understanding of what Christ did for them, you will see hearts and minds change.



STUDENT LESSON

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT, Part 1

What Goes in Stays In

June 14, 2025

Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1, 2, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 22, Christian Behavior:** “For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 25-27

WHAT GOES IN STAYS IN

Jeff liked TV. His parents worked a lot, and so when he came home from school he would turn on the TV when he did his homework or his chores. When his parents would come home, dinner was usually eaten in front of the TV. After dinner the family would circle around the TV for some “quality time.” This was the way Jeff lived his life, and he really didn’t know there was another way.

When Jeff went to his friend Paul’s after school, his parents were at work too. Jeff noticed the new kind of TV hanging on the wall and asked if they could watch it.

“Maybe after our homework,” Paul said. But soon the homework was completed, since there were no distractions to slow it down. Again Jeff asked about watching the new TV. This time Paul admitted that he was not allowed to watch TV when his parents weren’t home. He explained to the surprised Jeff, “They let me watch only one show a day, and then only if they are home to watch it with me!”

Paul and Jeff did Paul’s chores and then washed up for dinner. At dinner the whole family sat down, and something unusual happened—they began to talk! To one another!

Recently Nielsen took a look at today’s American teen, raised in an age dominated by media choices like never before, from the Internet to cable channels to Web-connected devices galore.

Statistics say that your generation is watching more television and movies than ever before. What can be said about a generation of young people who spends more time on the couch than anywhere else? You don’t have to be part of the majority who choose such a self-destructive lifestyle. You are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14, NKJV), and you have received from the Creator free will to choose how you live your life. Therefore choose daily to bring honor to God in each decision you make. Choose to feed your mind only with information that will elevate your thoughts and inspire your heart to achieve the

great plans that God has for your life. You can do this if you rely only on Him. He will help you avoid and reject everything that is rubbish. If you choose Jesus daily as your guide, you will desire to watch, listen to, say, and do only things that He would want for you. With right choices you will grow closer and closer to God's ideal for you and to the heart of Jesus.

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.
- » This week, read over this lesson and then join in the dialogue on entertainment that has been happening on the Real-Time Faith discussion forum. Every section of this lesson gives you plenty to think about and discuss.

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

- » Read Ephesians 5:1-21.
- » Everything we do, everything we see, everything we hear, and everything we say should bring glory to God. We should guard against doing, seeing, hearing, and saying anything that would dishonor Him and weaken our Christian character.
- » How do our behaviors bring glory to God and reflect our true characters?

- » Unscramble the following verse. The verse is from the New King James Version.

whatever do all do therefore 10 glory you or
you whether Corinthians 1 of eat God drink
or to the :31

Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read Titus 2:11, 12.
- » An interesting idea exists in the world today. The idea is that somehow we are not connected to the things we put in our minds. We know this is not true when it comes to the things we eat. The poorer our diet, the more unhealthy we become. The same is true when it comes to those things we put in our brains.
- » You might have seen the commercials about "your brain on drugs." However, could we ask ourselves the same question about the time we spend on our couches watching TV, as opposed to being outdoors, or working on our minds, bodies, and our relationship with God? I think we can! That means we have a job to do, and that job is to guard ourselves from what the world would have us put in our minds every day.
- » Sounds tough, and it can be. But it is important for us to try to separate ourselves from the identity that the world would want to give us.
- » The world, modern media, or whatever you want to call it does not care about you or me! It only cares about itself, and making sure there is enough money to continue itself. That means you have incredible control. All you have to do is decide to "opt out" of what the world wants you to buy. Simply "go on strike" to what the media wants you to identify with. In this way you show them that you are not the mindless drone they think you are. What a blow to the way the media thinks you, a teenager, will react. Wouldn't it feel nice to show that you have some control over your life?
- » "Our recreations should not be scenes of senseless mirth, taking the form of the nonsensical" (Ellen G. White, *Messages to Young People*, p. 364).

Wednesday

BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Look up the texts and match the verse with the text. All verses are from the New King James Version.

1.	James 3:17	
2.	Deuteronomy 23:14	
3.	2 Timothy 2:22	
4.	Job 14:4	
5.	Philippians 2:15	
6.	Habakkuk 1:13	
7.	Matthew 5:8	

A.	"For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp."
B.	"Out of an unclean?"
C.	"The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable."
D.	"The pure in heart, for they shall see."
E.	"Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace."
F.	"Why do You look on those who deal treacherously . . ."
G.	"Children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse . . ."

Thursday

CONNECTING

- » Read Philippians 4:8.
- » Review the memory text.
- » The reason this is important to you is that you are in control of what goes into and out

of your brain. That's right! Everything you see, you choose to see. Everything you listen to, you choose to listen to.

- » This puts a huge responsibility on us to guard ourselves from what the world is selling us. Of course, not all media is bad; however, the questions you need to ask yourself are these: "Do I make the best use of my time, energies, and skills when I watch TV?"; "Do I honor God when I watch that TV show or program?"; "What do I have to gain from choosing that form of entertainment?"; "Does it benefit anyone else if I watch a movie, TV program, video game, etc.?" If you can't answer these questions, or you have never thought of them before, then it is time for you to begin to think about them.
- » The exercise for tomorrow will allow you to break down what it is that the world is trying to give you and what God is trying to give you.
- » "Your last thought at night, your first thought in the morning, should be of Him in whom is centered your hope of eternal life" (Ellen G. White, *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 666).

Friday

APPLYING

- » Read 2 Corinthians 10:5.
- » Filling out the following lists will help you think about the time you spend with the media and its type of entertainment. Whichever side you fill out first for each section, it will become apparent that the opposite is what goes in the other column.

What God wants **for** me

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What the world wants **for** me

What God has **given** me

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What the world has **given** me

What following God **gives** me

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What following the world **gives** me

