



**Educate
+ Engage**



**MEDIA
MATTERS:**



**Movies/Shows -
Intentional
Discernment
in Entertainment**

OVERVIEW

In today's lesson we examine the vast landscape of entertainment, specifically movies and shows, emphasizing intentional discernment in our choices. As we explore the impact of content on our souls, navigate the vast sea of content possibilities, and uphold Christian integrity in our entertainment preferences, let's cultivate likings that align with our faith.

Given the broad range of entertainment options available to us, it is easy to lose sight of the values that should guide our choices. Practicing intentionality increases awareness about what we allow into our lives through movies and shows. Our goal of adhering to the principles of Philippians 4:8 helps us ensure that our entertainment decisions align with virtues that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and praiseworthy.

Scripture Passage

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

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.

Psalms 101:3 (NKJV)

I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.

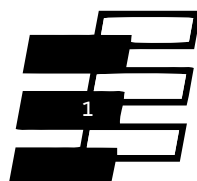
God's Insight: Be aware of what you put before your eyes. Not only are we called to abstain from sin, but we must not take pleasure in watching others indulge in sin.

The Impact of Content on the Soul



Movies and shows are not just mere forms of entertainment; they are powerful mediums that influence our thoughts and emotions. What we watch has the potential to either lift us up or push us down. As Christians it's crucial to be intentional about the media we engage with, ensuring that it aligns with the virtues mentioned in Philippians 4:8.

Think of movies and shows as windows to different worlds. Each frame, dialogue, and plot twist can shape our worldview and perceptions. This impact can be positive, inspiring us to emulate



virtues; or it negative, subtly normalizing behaviors contrary to Christian values. Think about it. If a show continually paints sin as fun, accepted, celebrated and Christians as hateful, intolerant, and hypocritical, sooner or later you will begin to lean (even a little) toward sin, and any step toward sin is a step away from God.

Optional Activity: In pairs, discuss a movie or show that left a lasting impact on your soul. Reflect on how the content, themes, and messages shaped your perspective and emotions. Consider the importance of being intentional about the media we allow into our lives.

Discussion Questions: How has a specific movie or show influenced your thoughts and emotions? In what ways can intentional discernment in entertainment contribute to a more positive mindset?

Navigating the Sea of Content Choices

In the digital age, we're presented with endless content choices, ranging from uplifting and heartwarming to dangerous. As Christians, setting guidelines for entertainment choices becomes a proactive way for us to navigate this ocean of content. Consider criteria such as aligning with biblical principles, avoiding explicit content, and promoting positive values.

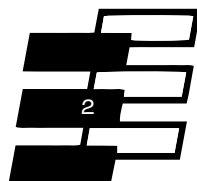
It's essential to be conscious of the diverse range of options available and choose wisely. Just as we navigate physical spaces with caution, our digital choices should be guided by an awareness of what is beneficial and edifying. This principle doesn't require avoiding all challenging topics but approaching them with discernment.

Optional Activity: Engage in a brainstorming activity where each student lists criteria for selecting movies and shows that align with Christian values. Ask them to share their criteria with the class, discussing the importance of discernment in navigating the sea of content choices.

Discussion Questions: What criteria do you deem essential for selecting content that aligns with Christian values? How can intentional discernment help you make wise choices in the sea of content options?

Maintaining Christian Integrity in Entertainment

Our entertainment choices should reflect our commitment to Christian integrity. Christian integrity involves aligning our actions with our faith. Integrity is often tested when nobody else is around. If you have to close your door to watch a movie or a show, ask yourself why.



Lesson 3

Could you watch what you're watching in the living room or in the youth room where your family or church family could walk by and see what you're watching. Would you feel ashamed telling your parents or pastor what you just watched? If so, why are you watching it? Reflect on how your entertainment choices can be a testament to your commitment to Philippians 4:8, meditating on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and praiseworthy.

In a world that often blurs the lines between right and wrong, maintaining Christian integrity in entertainment becomes a way of standing firm in our beliefs. It's not about imposing judgments on others' choices but about personal conviction and commitment to biblical principles. Some of your peers may make fun of you if you don't get the movie references or if you can't quote the lines from the show, and that's okay. Remember, we are not called to please our friends; we are called to glorify God. Sometimes those two aims are impossible at the same time.

Optional Activity: Allow time for students to individually create personal entertainment covenants outlining principles for maintaining Christian integrity in viewing habits. Discuss these covenants as a group, exploring how the principles identified can guide healthy entertainment choices.

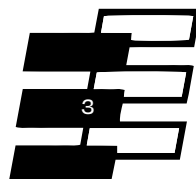
Discussion Questions: What principles would you include in your personal entertainment covenant? How can maintaining Christian integrity in entertainment enhance your spiritual walk?

Stewarding Our Time

As with all media, sometimes content is only half the consideration. What about the amount of time we spend watching movies or shows? Binge watching has become noble, but spending five or six hours each day catching up on seasons you missed is not noble, especially if you haven't had your devotion and your GPA is hanging on by its fingernails. Keep track of the amount of time you spend and ask yourself if you're spending too much time on entertainment and not enough time with God, your family, your friends, and preparing for your future.

Closing

As we conclude our exploration of intentional discernment in entertainment, let's be mindful of the profound effect that movies and shows can have on our souls. May our choices be guided by Christian integrity, ensuring that we meditate on things that are virtuous and praiseworthy.



ENGAGE

Challenge yourself to a media fast for a week, intentionally avoiding content that does not align with your personal entertainment covenant. Use this time for reflection and prayer, considering how intentional discernment can positively influence your mindset and spiritual well-being. Share your experiences with peers, fostering a discussion on the importance of maintaining Christian integrity in entertainment choices.

