

Television and Movies

MAIN IDEAS:

- > Visual media has a unique ability to vividly captivate our hearts and minds.
- > Visual media provides opportunities to present biblical truths and themes, but also can be used as a tool of Satan to fuel sinful desires and thoughts.
- > We must carefully evaluate our viewing choices and habits through the truths of Scripture.

SCRIPTURE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Philippians 4:8 | 5. 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 | 9. 1 Corinthians 10:23 |
| 2. Isaiah 5:20 | 6. Matthew 7:13 | 10. Galatians 6:7-8 |
| 3. Colossians 2:8 | 7. Jeremiah 17:9 | 11. Psalm 19:9, 11 |
| 4. Proverbs 14:16 | 8. 1 Corinthians 6:12b | |

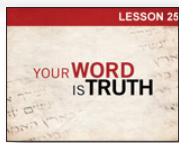
FROM THE VISUALS DVD:

- | | |
|---|---|
| > PowerPoint® Slides for Lesson 25 | > "Talking to Kids About Media Discernment" article (one per student) |
| > Movie Reviews 1-2 (one set per classroom; optional) | > "It's Never Just a Movie or a Book" article (one per student) |
| > Parent Memo for Lesson 25 (one per student) | |
| > "Media Discernment 101" article (one per student) | |
| > "God's Word on Discernment and Nurturing Our Spirits" article (one per student) | |

OTHER VISUALS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| > Bible | > DVD player and television |
| > <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> book by C.S. Lewis (You will be reading from Chapter 15 "Deeper Magic Before the Dawn of Time," beginning with the sentence: "As soon as the wood was silent again Susan and Lucy crept out onto the open hilltop." End reading with the sentence: "As it was all more lonely and hopeless and horrid than I know how to describe.") | > <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> DVD, produced by Walt Disney Pictures (You will be showing the scene from the movie that corresponds with the text that you read in class. Begin at 1:43:00 and end at 1:45:00.) |

Television and Movies

(DISPLAY **LESSON 25.**)

Small Group Discussion (5-7 minutes)

(DISPLAY **DISCUSSION.**)

Ask the students the following questions. Though some of their answers may surprise you, refrain from making judgments regarding the students' answers at this point in the lesson. Once the lesson material and the biblical guidelines for evaluating media choices have all been presented, you will have an opportunity to help the students reexamine their media choices.

What was the last movie (or TV show) you watched?

Why did you decide to watch that movie (or show)?

Overall, how did you like the movie or show? Would you recommend it to your friends? Why?

Large Group Lesson

(DISPLAY **EXPOSURE.**)

Direct the students to this part of the journal to fill in the missing times.

Among all 8- to 18-year-olds surveyed, these are the average amounts of time spent with each medium in a typical day¹:

- ✎ TV content = 4:38 (4 hours, 38 minutes)
- ✎ Music/audio = 2:31
- ✎ Computer = 1:29
- ✎ Video games = 1:13
- ✎ Print (reading) = 0:38
- ✎ Movies (theater) = 0:25
- ✎ Total media exposure = **almost 11 hours every day**

Very quickly highlight the following conclusions from the statistics:

What percentage of the total of 11 media hours are spent in one medium—watching television? [more than 4½ hours] If you add up all of the visual media—television, computer, video games, and movies, the amount of time spent is 7 hours and 45 minutes daily—or almost half of your waking hours.

Compare the time spent with visual media (more than 7 hours) with the average time

1. From "Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8-to-18-Year-Olds," A Kaiser Family Foundation Study, 2009. (Figures for 2009 only).

spent reading. (The average time spent reading daily is only 38 minutes.) Does this surprise you? Why or why not? Why is visual media used so much more than written media? (Allow the students to respond, and then direct them to the related question in the journal.)

Recommended Illustration:



(DISPLAY **BLANK SLIDE.**)

Read a short portion (no more than one minute) from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. Ask the students if they have read the book.

The written word has a power to it. Well-written books such as this use descriptive words that draw us in so we feel like we are actually there. So what does your mind do as you read? [Your mind tries to imagine and create a picture of the characters, people, and events. It is active, and the imagination is engaged.]

MOVIE AND PLAYER

But let's contrast this to a visual presentation of this same scene.

(Play the corresponding three-minute or shorter scene from the **movie**.)

How did watching the movie version compare with simply reading the same portion from the book? Which did you like better—the written form or the movie form? What elements of a movie add to the power and emotion of the story? [e.g., visual effects, color, real images, sound, and music] What does your mind do when you watch? [Your mind is more passive—instead of creating and imagining it is simply absorbing and processing.]

The movie version is able to communicate in a way that involves more of our senses and emotions. We see dramatic visual effects and colorful images. The music adds to the mood of the scene. We are “drawn in” to the scene, and it’s almost as if we are there experiencing the story. And these realities about visual media can be used to convey the most important truths of all.



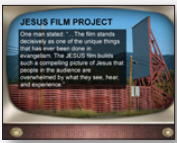
(DISPLAY **JESUS FILM.**)

- A film based on the Gospel of Luke
- Translated into more than 1,000 languages
- Since 1979, the JESUS film has been viewed by several billion people around the world.
- Three quarters of all churches planted in the last decade around the world used the JESUS film as part of the church-planting process.²

Christians used the unique and powerful qualities of visual media to tell the message of the Gospel of Jesus.

2. Facts about the film from the JESUS Film Project at www.jesusfilm.org

Television and Movies

(DISPLAY **QUOTE.**)

One man stated:

"... The film stands decisively as one of the unique things that has ever been done in evangelism. The JESUS film builds such a compelling picture of Jesus that people in the audience are overwhelmed by what they see, hear, and experience."³

However, think about what you watch on the television and in movies. Would you say that most of what you watch reflects an attempt to convey the message of the Gospel? If it doesn't, does that make it wrong to watch? Why or why not? (Allow the students to respond.)

Have the students turn to **Philippians 4:8**, and to the corresponding part in the journal.

Philippians 4:8—Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

(DISPLAY **LION.**)Movie: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

- ☞ • *What are the key themes in the movie?*
- ☞ • *Do any of these themes convey elements of biblical truth?*
- ☞ • *Is there anything true, honorable, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise in the movie?*

Can you give me one or two examples of any themes in the movie that convey biblical truth? [There is evil that is set on destroying what is good. Aslan gives us a picture of Jesus' sacrifice for sin, etc.] Can you give an example of something honorable and commendable in the movie?

Even though the movie is based on a fictional story, it has elements of biblical truth throughout. These include, good fighting evil, the recognition of truth versus lies, someone sacrificing his life to save others, etc. These things are commendable and worthy of praise. These themes serve as vivid illustrations of biblical truth, which may then inspire and challenge us to live out those truths in our own lives.

However, that is not what Satan wants conveyed to the billions of people who watch television and movies. And that is not the kind of message the sinful heart is craving. So

3. From the JESUS Film Project at www.jesusfilm.org

Satan takes advantage of the power of television, movies, and other visual media in order to spread his lies and try and destroy us. How does he do that? By taking our minds and hearts captive.

Illustration:

Ask the students if any of them have seen the hugely popular movie *Avatar*. If any of the students have watched it, ask them to quickly use one or two words to describe what they thought about the movie.



(DISPLAY **AVATAR.**)

🔊 **Review 1:** *Avatar* is not simply a sensational entertainment, although it is that. It's a technical breakthrough. It has a flat-out Green and anti-war message. It is predestined to launch a cult. It contains such visual detailing that it would reward repeat viewings. (Roger Ebert, *The Sun Times*)⁴

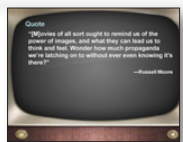
🔊 **Review 2:** *Avatar* is Cameron's long apologia [explanation and defense] for pantheism—a faith that equates God with Nature, and calls humanity into religious communion with the natural world...pantheism has been Hollywood's religion of choice for a generation now. (Ross Douthat, *The New York Times*)⁵

Nearly everyone admits that this movie has good special effects, which seems to be the main appeal for the first reviewer. However, those special effects mask messages that are full of empty deceit. One of these is pantheism—the belief that God and created things are one and the same. According to pantheism, God is not separate from other created things: God is a forest, God is an animal, God is the water, etc.

Are God and created things one and the same? No, the Bible makes very clear that God is the Creator, and is separate from all things.

Both of these reviews appeared in secular newspapers, which means even secular sources acknowledge there is a pantheistic message behind *Avatar*! Remind the students that Satan often disguises himself as an “angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14), and visual media offers a powerful and seductive way to disguise lies and sin to make them appealing.

After watching Avatar, Christian pastor and teacher Dr. Russell Moore pointed out the following:



(DISPLAY **RUSSELL MOORE.**)

[M]ovies of all sort ought to remind us of the power of images, and what they can lead us to think and feel. Wonder how much propaganda we're

4. From Roger Ebert, www.rogerebert.suntimes.com

5. From Ross Douthat, www.nytimes.com/2009/12/21

latching on to without ever even knowing it's there.⁶

Have you ever asked the last question of your own viewing habits? How much propaganda—deceitful and harmful ideas—are you latching on to without even knowing it? How will you guard your heart and mind from this?

Illustration (Optional):



(Display **BLANK SLIDE**.)

MOVIE REVIEW 1
AND 2

Hand out **Movie Reviews 1 and 2** to two students. Before they each read their review to the class, explain that both reviews were for the same movie.

Movie Review 1: This movie delivers the pleasures you'd expect from a movie extravaganza based on a Disneyland thrill ride, but also manages to provide more substantial rewards. The movie not only offers rollicking excitement, swashbuckling energy and splashy seagoing imagery, but also creates vivid, appealing characters through surprisingly strong performances, and disarms all resistance through its snappy sense of humor.⁷

Based on this review, would you want to see this movie? Would it be something possibly commendable and worthy of praise? Yes, it sounds great! But now listen to the second review.

Movie Review 2: Sparrow, Will and Elizabeth make liberal use of situation ethics: the end justifies the often questionable and downright unacceptable means. When all is said and done, crime goes unpunished and the main characters sail off into the sunset. Overshadowing the onscreen heroism and fun are disappointing closing remarks romanticizing—even legitimizing—piracy.⁸

Have any of you guessed what movie this is? [The Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl] What did this second review notice about the movie? [bad ethics and making piracy look good]

Explain that piracy, especially in the time period that the movie portrays, involved stealing, kidnapping, and even murder. Yet, the first reviewer made no mention that the main character and “hero” is actually a thief. Ask the students what might have clouded the first reviewer's perspective. Then quickly reread the following portion of the review:

The movie not only offers rollicking excitement, swashbuckling energy and splashy seagoing imagery, but also creates vivid, appealing characters.

Point out that because of the power of visual media—the colorful images, dramatic special effects, sound, and interesting characters—it is easy to be “taken for a ride” in

6. From www.russellmoore.com

7. From www.michaelmedved.com

8. From Rhonda Handlon and Bob Smithouser, as quoted on www.pluggedin.com

which your senses are so engaged that you aren't even aware your mind has been taken captive by the message. In this case, it's a message that glamorizes sin. And before you know it, you are cheering for the bad guys because the movie has made sin appear good and fun.

Have the students turn to **Isaiah 5:20** and also the corresponding portion of the journal.

Isaiah 5:20—Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Think about a show or movie you have watched lately and ask yourself... Does it treat sin as something good and commendable, or funny? Do you end up cheering for that which the Bible calls evil?



(DISPLAY **PHILIPPIANS 4:8.**)

🔊 *Philippians 4:8—Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Visual media is a powerful tool that Satan can use to distort the truth about what is truly honorable, lovely, commendable, and worthy of praise. And if your mind is not alert, you can be deceived and fall captive to Satan's lies.

Have the students turn to **Colossians 2:8**.

Colossians 2:8—See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Have you ever watched a movie with these verses in mind? Do you realize that the movie might be a tool of Satan to take you captive to “empty deceit”?

Explain to the students that you will now take a look at some biblical guidelines for watching television, movies, and video.

The following guidelines are not meant to replace the guidance of your parents. Parents may hold differing convictions about what forms of visual media are “okay” or “not okay” for their family members to watch. These guidelines are not a substitute for your parents’ convictions. It is okay for you to be more cautious than your parents would be with what you watch, but it is never okay to defy the guidelines that your parents have set for your family, so keep that in mind as we discuss the following biblical guidelines.

(DISPLAY **GUIDELINES.**)

Quickly read through each statement and choose a student to read the corresponding verses. Direct the students to follow along with the following statements and verses in the journal.

- ✎ 1. Carefully evaluate a show, movie, or video before making a decision to watch it; then continue to examine it while you watch it.

Proverbs 14:16—

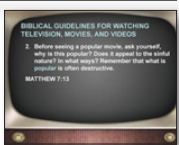
- ✎ *One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.*

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22—

- ✎ *...but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.*

First of all, don't be careless or reckless in what you watch. Some media has no redeeming value and is blatantly evil and harmful. Don't give Satan an opportunity to fuel wrong desires and thoughts in your life. Seek advice from godly, mature people before viewing anything. There are resources that review media from a Christian perspective and give wise counsel.

Next, carefully examine what you watch. Don't just sit and watch and go along for the ride by being a passive observer. Make sure your mind is at work testing and evaluating the message. Make sure you correctly understand what is truly good and what is evil. Sometimes it might mean that you need to turn off the TV or even leave the movie theater.

(DISPLAY **GUIDELINES 2.**)

2. Before seeing a popular movie, ask yourself, why is this movie popular? Does it appeal to the sinful nature? In what ways? Remember that what is popular is often destructive.

Matthew 7:13—

- ✎ *Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.*

Think about this: What would you say is the biggest factor in choosing which programs and movies you watch? Is it because "everyone else is watching it"? Making good view-

ing choices will usually put you at odds with the culture, and even your peers. Don't make your choices based on the crowd. It's easy to do the popular thing, but it is also destructive.



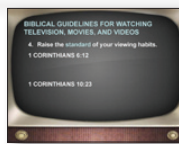
(DISPLAY **GUIDELINES 3.**)

3. Understand the desires of your sin nature, and don't be deceived by them. Keep in mind your particular temptations when you are evaluating and examining what you watch.

Jeremiah 17:9—

🔊 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

Our sin nature craves the things of the world and all its excitement and entertainments. Don't let those sinful desires master your viewing habits.



(DISPLAY **GUIDELINES 4.**)

4. Raise the standard of your viewing habits.

1 Corinthians 6:12—

🔊 *...“All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything.*

1 Corinthians 10:23—

🔊 *“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful.*

Illustration:

What would happen if you drank several cans of soda pop every day? It may not be morally wrong, but it sure wouldn't be beneficial to your health! Replacing several of those cans of soda with plain water or fruit juice would be much more beneficial to your whole body. (Teachers may give a brief, appropriate, personal example of a time where watching a movie or show would have been permissible, but proved not to be beneficial. Please keep it brief!)

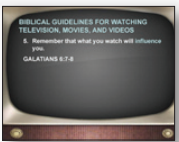
Do you ever think something like: “I just have to watch this program every week!” Or, “Yeah, I probably watch a lot of TV and play a lot of video games, but it's okay because I am not watching anything bad.”

Is that the standard you should use for evaluating your watching habits? Has a good

program become a type of idol for you? Is what you watch helping you to grow in your relationship with God, your parents, and others? Or, is most of what you watch a waste of your time?

Keep in mind that this principle doesn't mean we need to rule out every show that makes us laugh, for example. Laughter can be medicine for the soul, and can therefore be worthwhile and helpful! The question is: "What does this movie (or show) want me to laugh about?" If the laughter results from coarse or crude jokes, or dulls our minds and hearts to certain realities, it is not beneficial. However, good, clean comedy is a gift from God, and can benefit us!

Also consider time spent in media, and compare it to time spent investing in your relationships with God and others. Do you spend time on movies and the internet that should be spent in the Word, fulfilling your responsibilities at home and school, and building healthy relationships? Are your priorities right? Is media cutting out other more beneficial things too often? Ask yourself, "Does my satisfaction and joy come far more often from the internet and TV than from Christ? Where is my heart? My joy?"



(DISPLAY **GUIDELINES 5.**)

5. Remember that what you watch will influence you.

Galatians 6:7-8—

🔊 *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

You might be thinking, "What's the big deal? It's only entertainment! It's just a television show. It's just a movie. So it's got a lot of violence and bad language in it, that doesn't mean I'm going to go out and murder someone, or start talking that way."

Illustration:

Ask the students if they know of anyone who lives next to a freeway or airport.

If you ask those people: "Doesn't the noise bother you?" they will often respond: "No, you just get used to it and learn to tune it out."

When our minds hear a sound over and over again, it begins to "dismiss" the sound from our consciousness so it won't continually bother or annoy us. The same thing can happen to our hearts and minds regarding evil—we can become "used to" evil and simply tune it out.

Is there a problem with that? [You might get to a place where you no longer recognize certain kinds of evil and sin, even in your own life.]

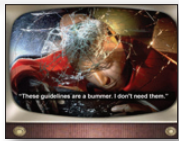
This is the danger demonstrated in **Galatians 6**. Maybe you don't think your viewing habits—the amount you watch or the kind of things you watch—will have any consequences. If you have been careless and foolish, and continue to be so, you will eventually experience the destructive results of those choices.

Point out it might seem to some as if the above guidelines are meant to kill our joy and fun, since following them would seem to eliminate the great majority of viewing options. And that might be true for some who have not been careful. But it is better to watch and benefit from what is truly worth watching than to simply follow the world. And God has not given us these guidelines to kill our joy, but to increase our joy.

Read **Psalms 19:9b, 11** to the students:

Psalms 19:9b, 11—...the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether...by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Illustration:



(DISPLAY **SEAT BELT.**)

There was a time when cars didn't have seat belts, and you could move all over the car while driving. It was a lot more fun for kids. You could jump around and play in the backseat while your parents were up front driving. What they found out, however, was that in an accident, even a small fender bender,...

...unrestrained children could go flying and be seriously or fatally injured. That is why cars are now required to have seat belts,...

...and the law requires you to wear them while driving—not to kill your fun but to make sure that your fun won't be killed in the event of an accident. If you're never in an accident, it may seem unnecessary to always be wearing one. But the regular habit of wearing one makes sure that you are always on the "safe side," because you never know when you may be involved in an accident.

The above movie guidelines could also be seen as a seat belt for your mind and heart. They are not meant to kill your joy, but to make sure your joy won't be killed by the effects of harmful temptations, and sinful thoughts and desires. At times, these guidelines might seem restrictive, just like a seat belt. However, they may also serve to prevent serious injury. And you might think, "Well, I've never had a movie or show influence me in a wrong way. It's just fun entertainment." But what you might not realize is that you are heading for a fender bender without the safety of wearing your seatbelt. So in the end, these guidelines can be viewed two different ways:



"These guidelines are a bummer. I don't need them." Or,...

(DISPLAY **SEAT BELT 2.**)

...*"Wow, I am so glad for this safety feature!"*

God's words are meant to be this wonderful, protective "safety belt". Yes, they may seem to be "restraining" at times, but the restraint is a loving and good joy protector! When we are restrained and discerning in our viewing habits, we will ultimately reap rewards—greater joy, a clean conscience, a better relationship with God, parents, and others, etc.

Small Group Application

The following examples are possible discussions for the Small Group Application time. Select the topics that are most applicable to your group. (See Introduction for more information.)

- **Truth Statement:** Visual media has a unique ability to vividly captivate our hearts and minds.

Think About It: *What is one of your favorite television shows or movies? What is it about that show or movie that you really like—the message, the acting, the special effects? Describe some of these. How do these things "captivate" your heart and mind? Can you give an example of how this can be a good thing? [e.g., it can really get your full attention] What about a bad thing? [e.g., it can cause you to lose sight of the message being presented]*

Examine Your Heart: *Think about your favorite show or movie again. In what ways has it captivated your heart and mind? Are you being captivated by emotional thrills? Violence? Coarse joking and laughs? How does this measure up to **Colossians 2:8** and **Philippians 4:8**? Review **Galatians 6:7-8**. Based on your media choices, what are you "sowing" in your life right now? According to Scripture, what can you expect to "reap"? Will the fruit that you reap be godly or worldly? Read **Psalms 139:23-24**. Pray for each other about these things.*

Live It: Encourage the students to carefully think about what captivates their hearts and minds when making viewing choices. Challenge them to take a break from recreational television, movies, video games, and computer viewing (including youtube) for a few days, or even a week. Use the extra time in meaningful reading, relationships, exercise, etc. What do they predict might be the results of doing this? How might doing this help to reveal what kinds of things are captivating their hearts and minds in relation to visual media.

- **Truth Statement:** Visual media provides opportunities to present biblical truths and themes, but also can be used as a tool of Satan to fuel sinful desires and thoughts.

Think About It: *Ask the students to recall a show or movie that presented biblical themes and truths. What were the themes and truths? Was this show or movie written or produced by Christians? How can even secular media sometimes present biblical truths? Give one or more examples: A nature program can vividly portray amazing truths about creation without acknowledging the Creator. Other programs or movies show the*

folly and consequences of bad choices, selfishness, and pride, without acknowledging that this is actually the natural consequence of sin. But have you also thought about whether or not a show or movie is actually fueling sinful desires and thoughts by making them seem more appealing to you? How can even a seemingly “harmless” show do this in your heart? [e.g., a program where all the kids are wearing the latest fashions, or all live in big homes might serve to fuel a wrong desire to have more or better things]

Examine Your Heart: *Have you carefully chosen and watched programs, movies, and videos with an eye for seeking to find biblical truths and themes? Do these serve to inspire and challenge you? In what ways? Why is it easier not to do this? How does visual media lend itself to making us naturally passive, and having our brain simply absorb what's being presented? Do you ever watch something and think about whether or not it is serving to fuel sinful thoughts and desires?*

Live It: Give the students an assignment for a television show or movie that they watch this week. Have them watch with a notebook and pencil in hand. At the top of a blank page, have them write out the words of **Philippians 4:8**. Then, as they watch, have them write down any characters, events, or themes that would measure up to the qualities in the verse. At the end of the show or movie, how much did they write? What did they use as their standard for determining what is honorable, true, commendable, etc.? Would what they wrote pass the Scripture test?

- **Truth Statement:** We must carefully evaluate our viewing choices and habits through the truths of Scripture

Think about it: *How do you go about making viewing choices? Have you been pretty casual about it? Who influences you the most, friends or parents? Have you ever sought advice from mature, godly people before viewing something? Does something that is rated “G” mean that it is “safe” to view without an uncritical mind? [For example, in Disney’s *Bambi*, animals are portrayed as innocent creatures with human feelings and thoughts, while man is portrayed as evil and destructive, hunting the poor, innocent animals. How does this present a worldview that is skewed? How might it cause children to wrongly understand the difference between animals and humans?]*

Have you ever examined how much time you spend watching media, even good shows and movies? Why might that be an issue for your heart and mind? How might your mind, mental discipline, concentration, reasoning, and literary abilities be impacted? What is the main motivation for turning on the TV or computer? Why might this be harmful? If you are spending more than seven hours a day watching something, what are you not able to do as much of? Are you watching others live, or are you living?

Examine Your Heart: *Have the students review the six biblical guidelines in their journal. Are there any they have questions about, or want to discuss further? Are there any they find helpful, convicting, difficult, or irrelevant? Why might they have a “gut reaction” against some of these? What might this be an indication of? Spiritual deadness, or*

a war within the heart and mind of the old sinful self and the new spiritual self? If you feel “spiritual deadness,” will continuing to feed your heart and mind with worthless or harmful viewing benefit your life? What does Galatians 6 say? If there is a war within your heart and mind about these things, what tools are available to Christians to fight this battle?

Live It: Send the following articles home with the students to share with their parents. Encourage them to talk with their parents or another mature Christian about their personal viewing habits. If their parents have not yet done this for them, have them ask their parents to work with them and write down specific rules regarding the amount of time spent watching various media options, and guidelines for what they watch.

ARTICLES (ONE PER
STUDENT)

"It's Never Just a Movie or a Book"

"God's Word on Discernment and Nurturing Our Spirits"

"Talking to Kids About Media Discernment"

"Media Discernment 101"

Note: Encourage all students to complete this last “Live It” activity, as it is part of the “At Home” section of the journal for this lesson.

Encourage students to apply one thing from the discussion to their lives this week. Try to follow up with them next week.

Send Home

Parent Memo for Lesson 25

Also, as listed above:

"Media Discernment 101"

"God's Word on Discernment and Nurturing Our Spirits"

"Talking to Kids About Media Discernment"

"It's Never Just a Movie or a Book"