



Date: _____
Series: A-MAZE-IN Life
Summer Year 2, Lesson 4

Television and Videos...What Will You Choose?

Take Home Point: *Let God guide your choices in television and videos. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Galatians 5:19-21 and Philippians 4:8

Key Verse: Colossians 3:2, "Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things."

We will help kids know:

- Watching too much television can be hazardous to mental, physical, and spiritual health.
- Inappropriate television/video shows send powerful messages that can lead us away from God rather than toward him.
- God will help guide our choices as we spend more time with him, reading the Bible and praying.




We will help kids feel:

- Astounded to discover how much television they actually watch.
- Motivated to make a change in their television viewing habits if they are spending too much time in front of the TV.
- Alert to the spiritually damaging messages that can be on TV.

We will help kids do:

- Play a game that identifies the amount of television and the type of shows that they watch.
- Discuss openly the influence television has/or doesn't have according to them.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids will play a game that identifies the amount of television that they watch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TV Guide or schedule from last week hand-out "A-MAZE-ING Amounts of TV and Video Movies," for each kid (p.14) candy tokens such as Skittles® or M&Ms® candies (seven per student) a bag of that same candy
Large Group 	4 7 8 8 10	Overview The Maze In Life ...What Will You Choose? Attention Grabber: video --- <i>Mr. Mom</i> . Michael Keeton turns into a slob in front of the television. Interactive Drama Part 1: "If the TV Could Talk!" — A volunteer portrays Herman/Harriet Finklebrain is tempted to spend too much time watching inappropriate TV Part 2: "Giving Herman His Clues" —The Keeper of the Clues presents Herman or Harriet with clues as to how God wants to influence the choices he/she makes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a sports jacket for the Keeper of the Clues <i>Mr. Mom</i> video produced by MGM Studios/ Universal, 1983, ASIN 0792844866. "Act It Out" cue sheet (p. 12) given to a volunteer actor in advance camcorder attached to a television set as a monitor so the audience can view the skit on the TV screen a couch remote control a cameraman three signs with the following: 1) "One hour later..." 2) "Two hours later..." 3) "Five hours later..." three large folded cards made out of half sheets of poster board labeled either "Clue 1" or "Clue 2" or "Clue 3" on a display table a plastic toy or real potato head with facial features a Bible and TV guide a cross
Small Group Application 	4	Kids compare Galatians 5:19-21 and Philippians 4:8 with their favorite TV show and video. They discern if they are <i>*letting God guide their choices in television and video viewing.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> handout, <i>My Favorite TV and Video Show, "What Do the Critics Say?"</i> (p.13) pencil or pen

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

As kids gather: *Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.*

Supplies needed: TV Guide or schedule, hand-outs “A-MAZE-ING Amounts of TV and Video Movies,” candy tokens such as Skittles® or M&Ms® to mark kids’ trail on the grid, and a bag of that same candy

Warm up discussion with a very brief sharing time:

What is your favorite TV show? What is your favorite video?

Have you ever thought about how much TV or how many videos you watch in a week? Let’s take a count and see how we all stack up.

Give each student the handout “A-MAZE-ING Amounts of TV and Video” along with seven Skittles or M&Ms. Have kids put one candy marker in the box for each day. Then for the number of hours they spent on that day watching television or videos, they place that day’s marker on the trail that will lead to a total number of hours. For example: a student watched two hours of TV on Sunday, so he uses his candy marker for Sunday and places it on the “2” on the trail. Then he watched a two hour video and two hours of television on Monday for a total of four hours. He takes the candy marker for Monday and places it on the “6” on the trail. Continue in the same manner for each day of the week. Let kids look at the TV schedule to help jog their memories.

Ask who has viewed the most television that week. Then while holding up the additional bag of that candy, ask that person:

How would you like this bag of candy to eat right now? Sure, it would be pretty good. But how about if I gave you a bag of candy for every hour of TV you watched this last week—with this one important condition? You would have to eat it now. That means that I would give you 35 bags of candy (whatever amount of hours he accumulated) and you would have to eat it right now.

Would you do it? Would you feel very good? Would it be healthy for you?

Let the kids eat their seven candy tokens and perhaps give them some more. Discuss the following.

Watching a lot of television can be compared to feeding our minds with too much junk food. In small amounts, it may not hurt us. But if

we fill up on this junk food instead of other healthy things, it can have a bad effect.

Too much television can make us unhealthy not only because we are inactive physically, but also because we fill our hearts and minds with spiritual junk food. That can be bad for us, especially if it replaces the good spiritual food such as God's messages that he wants to give us in the Bible. We all may need to ask God to help us through the maze of the choices we face when we watch television or videos.

Today we will learn to **let God guide your choices in television and video viewing.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Attention Grabber: video --- *Mr. Mom.* Michael Keeton turns into a slob in front of the television.

Interactive Drama Part 1: "If the TV Could Talk!"—A volunteer portrays Herman/Harriet Finklebrain who is tempted to spend too much time watching inappropriate television instead of doing his/her homework.

Part 2: "Giving Herman His Clues"—The Keeper of the Clues presents Herman or Harriet with clues as to how God would want to influence the choices he/she makes in viewing television or videos.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions/Interpretation Questions: What happened?/What does this mean?

Read Galatians 5:19-21.

Do you think those that fill their minds with television programs that show these characteristics as common and normal will not go to heaven? Why or why not?

Jesus gives us his saving grace. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we receive forgiveness for our sins. But with his forgiveness comes the power to change. We want to change because once we have experienced God's love, we want to show him our love in return. We show God our love when we obey him. We also receive his protection for our bodies, minds, and hearts when we follow his ways.

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Why do you think we should avoid filling our minds with these images? *(Talk about how God gave us our minds with a lot of retention power. Images that we see can be recorded in our brains and are hard to erase. Satan will use any means he can to hurt our thinking or our faith walk with God.)*

Our key verse for today from Colossians 3:2 says, “Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things.”

Application Activity:

Give each student the handout *My Favorite TV and Video Show, “What Do the Critics Say?”* Have kids write their favorite television show and video in the boxes and copy from either list the messages commonly portrayed in each. Say:

Write your favorite TV show in the top box and your favorite video in the next box. Now, think of the words from the two columns that might describe your TV show. You can pick words from either list. These words come from two passages in the Bible.

Read Galatians 5:19-21 and Philippians 4:8

Notice the difference of the items listed in these two Bible passages. Take your list of favorite TV shows and compare them with the two lists. How are these shows influencing you?

Have kids share what they listed about their favorite TV shows. Repeat the process for kids' favorite videos. Then say:

How do we do in regards to our television and video choices? How do we choose God's way in our viewing habits?

Have you ever experienced any mood changes after watching television or videos? After watching violent or scary movies, have you ever had a yucky feeling? What movies make you feel happier? What shows illustrate people that inspire you to become like them?

How much time do you spend reading the Bible a day? How does this compare with the amount of time you spend watching TV? Are you filling your mind with things of God or things of the world?

Remember, **let God guide your choices in television and video viewing.*

Challenge each student to read a chapter in the Bible each day before they watch any television or videos. Promise a candy reward the next week for anyone that completes this task.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Thank him that we can be redeemed no matter what we have done. Thank him for the power he gives us to do what is right, deserving of praise, true, honorable, fair, pure, acceptable, and commendable. Ask that the Holy Spirit convict us where we need to make changes in our television and video viewing.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

The Maze In Life ...What Will You Choose?

TV, Videos and Videos Games

Props needed:

- “Mr. Mom” video;
- a sports jacket for the Keeper of the Clues. Tape paper question marks all over the jacket
- camcorder attached to a television set as a monitor so the audience can view the skit on the TV screen as it is being acted out
- “Act It Out” cue sheet given to an volunteer actor in advance
- three signs printed with the following: 1) “One hour later...” 2) “Two hours later...” 3) “Five hours later...”
- three large folded cards made out of half sheets of poster board labeled either “Clue 1” or “Clue 2” or “Clue 3;” inside each clue-card is an object: 1) a potato head (plastic toy or real potato with facial features attached); 2) a Bible and TV Guide; 3) a cross;

Setting: a couch and remote control facing the audience. A cameraman is positioned on the floor ten feet in front of the couch with his back to the audience. Next to him is a television that is facing the audience. His video camera is fed directly into the TV. He will pretend to be the TV talking to the kid on the couch. The audience will see what he sees.

Two characters are best for the presentation: the Keeper of the Clues (large group presenter) and another person who is a cameraman filming the kid on the couch. The cameraman is also the voice of the TV. (A microphone will be helpful.)

Introduction

The Keeper of the Clues begins:

Welcome, kids, to the maze of life and all the choices you face. Yes, you know that life is meant to be an A-MAZE-IN adventure. But mazes can be hazardous as well. Some of your choices may lead you to dead ends and detours. Along the way, as you seek God’s direction, you will discover that he is the Maze Master who will lead you on a path that encounters him. As a matter of fact, every day he invites you to make choices that lead you to the destination of meeting his own Son Jesus, who will lead you through the maze of life. Your final destination can be a wonderful life with him forever.

I am the Keeper of the Clues who will give you some clues to help you in your choices throughout the maze. Today we are looking at the choices you make in the area of TV and video movies. To introduce our maze, I would like to show you a video clip from the movie *Mr. Mom*.

Video Clip As an Attention Grabber

Show the video section in *Mr. Mom* where Michael Keeton turns into a slob in front of the television.

Part 1: “If the TV Could Talk!” Interactive Drama

In advance, select a student to act out the following skit. Brief him or her with the acting cues from “Act It Out”.

Set-up:

- Occasional chair for student to lounge in
- Remote control
- Various papers to indicate homework
- TV or box to use as a “pretend” TV

Option One—Elaborate:

Obtain a video camera and a camera operator for this drama. Connect the camera to a TV and face the TV toward the audience, preferably just off to the side. The volunteer needs to be sitting in a comfortable chair or couch watching another TV or empty box. Camera operator needs to be sitting by this TV and will film Herman (or Harriet). (S)he or another volunteer will act as the TV voice. Whenever the TV “talks” to Herman (or Harriet), zoom in on the student volunteer. Return to normal viewing of Herman (or Harriet) when not speaking. Be out of sight of audience during the skit. Student volunteer needs a remote to complete this role.

Option Two—Simple:

Have student volunteer pretend to be doing homework and tempted to look at TV as the voice directs. You may want to use a real TV or, if one is not available, it can be a box and the audience uses their imagination. They are only seeing the back anyway. The volunteer pretends or “acts it out” with recommended activity.

Presenter introduces the interactive drama:

What choices will you make in your TV and video watching? Let’s take a look as we invite a brave volunteer forward.

Here is our volunteer portraying Herman Finklebrain, your average sixth grade boy. (Or Harriet Finklebrain, your average sixth grade girl.) Now, use your imagination and watch this TV facing you. It will show you what the TV sees, and what it might even say to those watching it.

The cameraman zooms in and out on Herman (or Harriet) throughout the following skit as he speaks as the TV. He whispers:

Herman, Herman, it's me, the TV. Why are you doing your homework now? Do you think that is more interesting than me? What do you say? How about just five minutes? Then you can go right back to your homework. Just five minutes... let's see what is on.

Herman uses the remote control and turns it on.

TV voice continues:

Good, Herman. Now, flip through the channels. Flip, flip...Aah! You've got another choice here. This is an old cartoon rerun you have seen many times before, but it's more interesting than homework right now. Why don't you just keep it on while you pretend to do your homework? Aah! There you go.

Cameraman pans in on a sign that reads, "One hour later..."

TV voice:

Herman, how much homework have you done? One half of one math problem? That's not important now anyway is it? Herman, how about seeing what is on the movie channel? Oh, I know sometimes there is restricted viewing on that, but it wouldn't hurt just to check, would it? Ooh...there is a movie your parents won't let you watch, but they are not home right now. Keep on watching. I think this is the part where they start machine-gunning people in half. Oh, I can see by your facial expressions that you are shocked! I said, I can see by your expressions that you are shocked! Wow, I bet you can't believe they just did that. I wonder what they will do next? There is only one way to find out. Keep watching.

Pans in on sign: "Two hours later..."

TV voice continues:

So, Herman, how many killings did you see? Only six? That's not too bad. How many times was God's name used in vain? Fifteen? Oh, that doesn't really matter that much, does it? What about those sex scenes? Oh, wait a minute. I hear your dad and mom walking into the room. Hit channel change or volume mute button!

Pans in on sign: "Five hours later..."

Looks like it is getting late. Time for bed already? How many hours was that? That was only five hours. What? You haven't finished your homework? Well that is not reasonable. Those teachers just give you too much, don't they?

Well, Herman. It has been nice having you with me tonight. Tomorrow let's meet here again at my place and see what else is on.

Part 2: "Giving Herman His Clues"

The Keeper of the Clues then approaches Herman for a special interview as the cameraman keeps filming.

Clue #1: Behind the first clue-card is a potato head. Pull the potato head out and read:

Count your TV hours and don't become a couch potato. Tell us, Herman, how many hours a week do you watch TV?

Let volunteer's answer.

How many hours a week does a couch potato watch TV? Do you think you need to make any changes? The next clues might help.

Clue #2: Behind the clue-card is a TV Guide on a Bible. Show the clues and say:

Ask God about your TV and video choices.

Herman, I wonder what God would say about what TV and videos we watch. By the way, what TV show is your favorite? How about what video?

Do any of these words describe your shows?

Galatians 5: 19-21 says:

"Now, the effects of the corrupt nature are obvious: illicit sex, perversion, promiscuity, idolatry, drug use, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, angry outbursts, selfish ambition, conflict, factions, envy, drunkenness, wild partying, and things like that. I've told you in the past and I'm telling you again that people who do things like that will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Definitions for the harder words:

1. *Illicit sex*: sex outside of marriage
2. *Perversion*: to lead astray to abnormal activity
3. *Promiscuity*: sex with many people
4. *Factions*: taking sides—example: *us* versus *them*
5. *Idolatry*: anything taking first place before God who should always have first place.
6. *Commendable*: that which is done well... with excellence.

Philippians 4:8 says:

“Finally, brothers and sisters, keep your thoughts on whatever is right or deserves praise: things that are true, honorable, fair, pure, acceptable, or commendable.”

Then say:

Clue 2 says that we should **let God guide our choices in TV and video*. Just maybe some of these verses help us! We will all look closer at this in small group.

Clue #3: A cross. Pull out the cross and say:

Use the power of Jesus.

Remember that each day Jesus wants to meet you on your path so you might have his power in your life. He gave his life on the cross to give you forgiveness, but also the power to live for him. Because he loves you this much, he wants to fill you with his presence and his influence.

The problem is that most often we ignore his power. We ignore the importance of spending time praying to him and reading the Bible. Why is that so hard? Because we feel so busy? Busy doing what? Watching TV or videos?

How much time do you spend reading the Bible? How much time do you spend watching television? Wow! Maybe that tells us why we might not have much spiritual power. This clue challenges us to use the power of Jesus. We will talk more about that in our small group.

Before we go there, let's close in prayer.

Dear God, thank you that you are the Master of the Maze. You help us find the right answers for our choices in life when we come to you and ask. So we are asking now. It's so easy to watch a lot of TV and videos. Maybe we watch too much. Or maybe we watch stuff that's not spiritually healthy. Give us the power of Jesus and his forgiveness. Help us to meet him every day and spend time with him so that we won't become a couch potato. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Act It Out

Explanation for a Volunteer to be Prepared Before Large Group

You will be Herman (or Harriet) Finklebrain. You will be sitting down on the couch attempting to do your homework. The TV will speak to you and tempt you four times. Here are your responses.

- 1) Pretend to try and study, not turning on the television. Finally, give in and turn on the TV.*
- 2) Try to keep the channel on appropriate television. Finally, give in to watching a movie channel that has R-rated pictures: one with violence, one with inappropriate sexual activity.*
- 3) At the end of five hours, have a glazed and stunned look where you don't respond to anything.*

My Favorite TV and Video

"What Do the Critics Say?"

Write your favorite television show and video in the boxes below. Then copy from either or both lists, the messages commonly portrayed in each.

LIST #1 **From Galatians 5:19-21**

- corruption
- illicit sex
- perversion
- idolatry
- drug use
- hatred
- rivalry/conflict
- angry outbursts
- selfish ambition
- jealousy/envy
- drunkenness
- wild partying

My Favorite TV Show
Name: _____

LIST #2 **From Philippians 4:8**

- right
- deserving of praise
- things that are true
- things that are honorable
- things that are fair
- things that are pure
- things that are acceptable
- things that are commendable

My Favorite Video/Movie
Name: _____

MAZE-ING

Amounts of T.V. and Video

Put a candy marker in each of the following boxes:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

How many hours of T.V. or video movies did you watch last week? Count how many hours for Sunday. Put your marker down. Now add how many hours on Monday. Put down Monday's candy marker. Continue until you finish your week.

