



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### A-MAZE-IN Life Series, Lesson 4

**Lesson Title:** Television & Video – What Will You Choose?

**Take Home Point:** Let God guide your choices in television and video.

#### Warm-Up:

A father was being pressured by his children to let them watch a popular movie containing “just a bit” of profanity and sexual misconduct. That evening the father asked if they wanted some brownies. Of course they thought that sounded good. He explained that these were not ordinary brownies; he added something to the recipe to give it some interest – “just a bit” of dog poop. He assured them all the other ingredients were gourmet quality and he had taken great care making the brownies. He was sure they were superb. Even with their father's promise that the brownies were of almost perfect quality, the teens refused. The father acted surprised. It was only one small part causing them to be so stubborn. He was certain they wouldn't notice it.

**Read:** Galatians 5:19-21; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:2

#### Observation (What happened?):

What is the result of living according to the sinful nature?

Why are we to set our hearts on things above?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What are some of the true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy things we should think about?

What does it mean to set your heart on things above?

#### Insight:

“Oh, be careful, little eyes, what you see; oh, be careful, little eyes, what you see.

For the Father up above is looking down in love, so be careful, little eyes, what you see.”

This simple song from my childhood has stayed with me through the years. It's a good reminder that what we look at and put into our minds matters to God a great deal. In Matthew 5 and 6, Jesus says, *“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away.”* (NIV) Personally, I think it would be a lot less painful to train my mind and eyes to stay away from temptation in the first place! It is possible to do this by consciously making decisions to stay away from certain places or activities. Over time, that conscious choice becomes a habit and spiritual inclination. The reverse is also true; we can also train ourselves to seek out gratifying our sinful desires.

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

As you read the verses in Galatians and Philippians, which list would you prefer described you? What are you doing about it?

Pray for the children in your small group to resist, avoid, and overcome the many visual temptations of entertainment media.

#### Kingdom Quest Year 2 – Lesson 4