



Media Madness

Goal:
Take Remote Control

Scripture Verses
2 Samuel 15:1-6
Proverbs 8:10-11
Colossians 3:1-6

For the ease of typing this, instead of using the terms; Computer, Ipad, Television, Phone, ThinkPad, etc...all of which can cause the distraction we are talking about...I just put in TV. So feel free to substitute whatever your child uses most.

Choose Your Opening

Option 1: Magazine Madness

(For this activity, you'll need a few magazines, scissors, newsprint, tape, and markers)

Give each child a couple of magazines, a pair of scissors, a sheet of newsprint, tape, and markers. **Say:** Using your supplies, make a poster advertising a new TV show called "Media Madness and Me". This show is about the members of a family whose entire lives are controlled by whatever they see on television. For example, if they see a diaper commercial, they'll immediately go to the store and buy some diapers—even if they don't have babies. Along with your poster advertising the show, create an idea for what a sample plot might include. Pick any celebrities you want to star in your show. You have five minutes. Ready? Go!

After 5 minutes, have everyone share their poster, **Ask:**

- *Why did you choose the celebrities you did?
- *How would you feel if you were starring in this show?
- *How is this TV show like or unlike real life?

Say: Life may not be like this TV show, but the truth is that television has a powerful influence on our lives. Today we're going to talk about letting God be the director of our lives.

Option 2: Imagination

(For this activity, you'll need paper and pencils)

Give each child a sheet of paper and a pencil. **Say:** Imagine you're a parent. What rules about television viewing would you make for your children? Write your rules on your paper.

Have everyone read their lists aloud, then **Ask:**

- *How are these rules like or unlike your own parents' rules?

Say: It's tough being a parent and having to compete with the appeal of television. Today we're going to talk about decisions that we need to make about watching television. We may learn that direction from parents and from God will change the way we let TV influence our lives.

THE BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Looks Aren't Everything

(For this activity, you'll need snacks, two identical crowns, and a Bible)

Choose two volunteers for this activity—one to play the role of King David and the other to play Absalom. It's OK if kids aren't familiar with the story (they will be by the end of the activity). Put identical crowns on the two volunteers' heads, and give Absalom the snacks. Have the volunteers stand on opposite sides of the room, and have the rest of the kids stand in the middle.

Say: Your job is to figure out which one of these people is Absalom and which one is David, and then you'll need to side with one of them. Your only guide is what you may already know about Absalom and David. You will learn more about these two in a few minutes. Once you've decided which side to stand on, you can't change your mind. You are free to help Absalom or David gain followers.

Pull the volunteers aside, and **Say:** During the game, David can only say, "God chose me to be the king"; Absalom can compliment kids, make promises, and even give out snacks. Be persuasive!

After five minutes, stop the game, and count who has the most followers. **Ask:**

- *How did you feel during the game?
- *What's similar about these feelings and the feelings you have when you're choosing what to watch on television?

Have a volunteer read aloud 2 Samuel 15:1-6. Then **Ask:**

- *What was Absalom trying to do?
- *What was his motive?
- *How is Absalom's influence similar to the influence of television in our lives?
- *How can television draw us away from God?

Say: Absalom deceived the people of Israel using charm, flattery, and eloquent words. He stole their hearts from King David. Like Absalom, television is full of deceptive messages. We may see lifestyles on television that look appealing on the surface, but we don't always see the real life consequences of those lifestyles. God loves us so much, and he wants the best for us. That's why it's important for us to evaluate our TV viewing habits in light of God's instructions.



Television on Trial

(For this activity, provide newsprint, markers, paper, pencils, and Bibles)

Say: We're going to put some of the most popular TV shows on trial and evaluate them from God's perspective. Tell kids to call out their favorite TV shows. Write their responses on newsprint. Have the kids vote on the top four or five shows, then assign one show to each child.

Distribute a sheet of paper, a pencil, and a Bible to each child. **Say:** On your paper, list the positive and negative messages with Colossians 3:1-6, and discuss how your show compares with the Bible's standards.

When the kids are ready, have them explain their findings. After each report, call for a show of hands to determine who thinks the show is worth watching and who doesn't. **Ask:**

*How did you feel about evaluating a show that you like?

*Do you think it's important to evaluate the shows we watch? Why or why not?

*How can you apply this form of evaluation to all the shows you watch regularly?

Say: It's important to evaluate the shows we watch and become more selective TV viewers. As we've seen in this activity, the Bible is a great guide to help us watch shows that are better for our lives.

Choose Your Closing

Option 1: Hasta la Vista, Baby

(For this activity, you'll need index cards, pencils, and Bibles)

Give each person an index card, a pencil, and a Bible. **Say:** Read Proverbs 8:10-11. Then write on your card one change you'll make in your TV viewing, based on what the passage says. Make your answer specific and measurable.

Have everyone share what they wrote then **Say:** Let's pray for each other, and ask God to give you strength to keep the commitments you've made. Post your card in a place where you'll see it often, so you'll be reminded of your goal.

Option 2: Media and Me

(For this activity, you'll need a copy of the "Media and Me" handout and a Pencil for each person)

Say: It's not enough to know what we should do when the media bombards us with wrong messages. God also expects us to act on what we know.

Give each child a "Media and Me" handout and a pencil. Have kids complete their handouts.

Have kids post their completed handouts in their rooms or near their TV sets to remind them to follow through and change the channel or turn off the TV when they are tempted.

Take time now to pray with the kids. Ask God to give kids discernment in choosing which TV shows and movies to watch and which magazines to read. Ask for God's help in resisting temptation.

MEDIA & ME

Decide how the media tempts you to follow wrong teachings. For example, immoral activities seen while watching soap operas may influence your own ideas of right and wrong. Write or illustrate the temptation on the "thumb down." Then choose one way you can resist that temptation. (For example, you could turn off the television.) Write or illustrate your way of resisting that temptation on the "thumb up."

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