

Lesson 2: Entertainment & How We View the World

Ephesians 4:17–24: *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Primary Objectives:

1. Highlight main points from lesson 1.
2. Connect the power of story to our own experience.
3. Explore how worldview messages work in popular media.
4. Develop a framework for engaging entertainment responsibly.

1. Highlight main points from lesson 1.

1. Explored why entertainment is a relevant topic.
2. Clarified our disposition toward entertainment.
3. Develop a working definition of entertainment.
4. Began to Determine how the bible addresses entertainment.

2. Connect the power of story to our own experience.

2.1. Describe a scene in a movie or book that had a particular impact on you. Note briefly as much detail as you can recall about the scene (location, season, sounds, emotions, action, colors, words, etc.).

Brief Description: _____

How did this scene impact you, and why?

2.2. Study the following passage and put forward some reasons why the story Nathan told David produced the response it did.

2 Samuel 12:1–6: And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had

very many flocks and herds,³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."⁵ Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die,⁶ and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

2.3. Compare the following set of facts with the story of Nathan and David above. How is it different? What does the contrast tell us about the power of story versus just the facts?

1. The Lord sends Nathan to David.
2. Nathan tells David a parable about a rich man and a poor man.
3. The rich man takes the poor man's only lamb to prepare a meal for a traveler.
4. David becomes angry at the rich man in the parable and declares judgment.
5. David suggests that the man who did this deserves to die and should restore the lamb fourfold.

2.4. Identify any beliefs or values embedded in the story of 1 Sam 12:1-6 that you think the writer intended to pass on to his readers.

3. Explore how worldview messages work in popular media.

3.1. Identify some important worldview beliefs and values exhibited in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*.

Rogue One unfolds against the backdrop of the iconic Star Wars universe, offering a gripping narrative set just before the events of the original trilogy. The story follows Jyn Erso, a determined and courageous young woman, who becomes a pivotal figure in the Rebel Alliance's quest to thwart the construction of the Death Star, a devastating weapon of mass destruction. Assembling a team of rebels with diverse backgrounds and motivations, Jyn embarks on a perilous mission to steal the Death Star plans.

Positive worldview elements:

Negative worldview elements:

Lacking worldview elements:

3.2. Evaluate the lyrics of the theme song, “Let It Go” from the Disney movie Frozen, making observations about how it does or doesn’t align with a biblical worldview.

"Frozen" is an animated Disney musical that follows the story of two royal sisters, Elsa and Anna of Arendelle. When Elsa's magical ice powers accidentally trap their kingdom in eternal winter, Anna embarks on a perilous journey with an ice harvester named Kristoff, his loyal reindeer Sven, and an enchanted snowman named Olaf to find Elsa and mend their fractured bond. It reinforces the values of self-sacrificial love, redemption and transformation, familial bonds, and overcoming fear.

Let It Go Lyric Excerpts:

Be the good girl you always have to be
Conceal, don't feel, don't let them know
Well, now they know

Let it go, let it go
Can't hold it back anymore
Let it go, let it go
Turn away and slam the door
I don't care what they're going to say
Let the storm rage on
The cold never bothered me anyway

It's time to see what I can do
To test the limits and break through
No right, no wrong, no rules for me
I'm free
Let it go, let it go
I am one with the wind and sky
Let it go, let it go

Observations: _____

3.3. Assess the following statement by Reformed theologian John Frame. Note some reasons you agree or disagree.

The worldview is the most important issue in film. That is the element that is most culturally influential (often in a destructive way), and it is often most central to the filmmaker’s purpose.

...I must add that it is simply false to claim that art has nothing to do with “messages.” Indeed, we are living in a time in which the messages of art are becoming more and more explicit.

4. Develop a framework for engaging entertainment responsibly.

4.1. Summarize what the passages below taken together make imperative about how we consume entertainment.

Proverbs 4:23: Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22: But test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

2 Corinthians 10:5: We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Romans 12:2: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Summary: _____

4.2. Form a question from each of the following passages that can be used to help make God-honoring entertainment choices.

1 Corinthians 10:31: So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Question: _____

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.

Question: _____

Genesis 3:6: So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate,

Psalms 101:3: I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.

Question: _____

Ephesians 5:15-16: Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Question: _____

1 Thessalonians 5:18: give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Ephesians 5:4: Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

Question: _____

Homework: Pick one or two of the questions above to “test” an entertainment choice you make, and note the outcome of the test.

Next Week: How We Got Hooked on Social Media