God-honoring Entertainment Choices: **Handout Notes**
Lesson 5: Entertainment Choices Toolbox

Ephesians 5:3-4, 7-17: But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. [4] Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. . . .[7] Therefore do not become partners with them; [8] for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light [9] (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), [10] and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. [11] Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. [12] For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. [13] But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, [14] for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." [15] Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Primary Objectives:
1. **Review When & What Explicit Material Is Improper.**
2. **Contemplate IF & WHY It Is Sinful to Watch Sin on a Screen.**
3. **Explore the Value of Various Entertainment Tool Sets**

1. Brief Review of Last Week:
1. **Considered Entertainment Time and Trade-offs**

2. **Explored When & What Explicit Material is Improper**

2. Contemplate IF & WHY It Is Sinful to Watch Sin on a Screen.

2.1. A son writes in about a disagreement with his father over whether watching a movie that includes scenes of God's name used in vain is sinful. How would you respond?

2.2. Underline what Piper says is the main issue in answer to the question of whether it is sinful to watch sin on a screen? What does he imply it reveals?

The short answer to the question is that it is not a sin to hear God's name taken in vain. God hears it a billion times a day and sees every sin committed on the planet, the most outrageous, gross, unjust, wicked, defiled — he sees them all. And God never sins in seeing them…That's not the issue. That's just not the issue.

The enjoyment of being entertained by sin is the issue. I'll say it again: the enjoyment of being entertained by sin is the issue. Whether it's the sin of taking the Lord's name in vain; or the sin of cocky, self-exalting arrogance, which seems to permeate everything; or the sin

of lust and fornication and adultery and indecency and immodesty, which is virtually ubiquitous; or the sin of distortions of womanhood and manhood; or the sins of disrespecting parents; or the sins of drunkenness; or the sins of desiring to be rich, which Paul said we ought not to do; or the sins of dishonesty; or the sins of slandering with stereotypes; or the sins of simply, profoundly, ubiquitously ignoring and thus not glorifying or thanking God — whatever the sins, the issue is, What does it say about our souls that we enjoy being entertained by them?

https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/is-it-sinful-to-watch-sin-on-a-screen

3. Explore the Value of Various Entertainment Tool Sets

3.1. Review the following Entertainment Tool Sets. Note the ones you believe to be most helpful in your present context.

1. Content Review Tools

Plugged In (https://www.pluggedin.com/)

Offers reviews of movies, TV shows, music, and games from a Christian perspective. Provides detailed content descriptions, including violence, language, and sexual content.

Unique feature: Includes a "Positive Elements" section that highlights positive messages in the content.

Movieguide (https://www.movieguide.org/)

Provides movie reviews from a more conservative Christian perspective. Offers detailed content descriptions, including violence, language, and sexual content, as well as moral and spiritual content.

Unique feature: Includes a "Content Chart" that rates movies on a scale of 1 to 10 for various content elements.

Common Sense Media (https://www.commonsensemedia.org/)

Provides reviews and ratings of movies, TV shows, books, and more, with a focus on providing information for parents and educators. Includes detailed content descriptions and age recommendations.

Unique feature: Offers educational resources and discussion guides for parents and educators.

IMDb (https://www.imdb.com/)

Offers a parental guide section for movies and TV shows on IMDb. Provides detailed content descriptions, including violence, language, and sexual content, as well as age recommendations.

Unique feature: Allows users to contribute their own content reviews and ratings.

Others:

Kids-In-Mind (https://kids-in-mind.com/)**, Screen It!** (https://www.screenit.com/)

2. Content Filter Tools

VidAngel: (https://www.vidangel.com/)

Offers filtered streaming of movies and TV shows, allowing users to customize their viewing experience. Subscription prices start at $9.99/month.

Unique feature: Provides a feature called "Watch Together" where users can watch movies with friends remotely.

Clearplay (https://www.clearplay.com/)

Allows users to customize their viewing experience by filtering out objectionable content from movies and TV shows. Web Browser Based. Subscription prices start at $7.99/month.

Unique feature: Offers a wide range of customizable filters for different types of content.

Pure Flix (https://www.pureflix.com/)

Streaming service that offers a wide range of family-friendly and faith-based movies, TV shows, and documentaries. Pure Flix aims to provide uplifting and inspiring content that aligns with Christian values. Subscription Price: $10.99/month or $99.99/year

Unique feature: Offers a wide selection of faith-based and family-friendly content, including movies, TV shows, and documentaries.

Christian Cinema (https://www.christiancinema.com/)

Streaming service that offers a wide range of faith-based movies, TV shows, and documentaries, integrated across major streaming platforms: Apple TV, iOS, Android, Roku, Chromecast, Amazon Fire TV, and Fire Tablets. Subscription Price: $9.99/month or $99.99/year.

Unique feature: offers a "Church Screening" feature that allows churches and organizations to host screenings of select movies.

3. Parental Oversight Tools

Parental Controls for Apple (https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304) **/ Android** (https://guidebooks.google.com/family-link).

Set screen and application time limits, remote device lock, app block/approval, website access and content filtering, camera/mic/location feature restrictions, device location indicator, etc.

Social Media & Online Activity Controls

Qustodio (https://www.qustodio.com/en/)

Kaspersky Safe Kids (https://usa.kaspersky.com/safe-kids)

Net Nanny (https://www.netnanny.com/)

Bark (https://www.bark.us/bark-premium/)

Norton Family (https://us.norton.com/products/norton-family)

Typically provide device independent content filtering, screen time management, social media and safe web search monitoring with real-time alerts and location tracking, game restrictions and time limits. Some include call/text tracking, Monthly subscription fees.

Game Console Parental Controls

Nintendo Switch (https://www.nintendo.com/us/switch/parental-controls/)

Sony PlayStation (https://www.playstation.com/en-us/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/)

Microsoft Xbox (https://www.xbox.com/en-US/family-hub)

Generally provide limits to which games can be played for how long, as well as new download and in-game purchase restrictions.

4. Content Accountability Tools

Covenant Eyes: (https://www.covenanteyes.com/)

Accountable2You: (https://www.accountable2you.com/)

Ever Accountable: (https://everaccountable.com/)

These apps typically work through a difficult to circumvent platform by monitoring, tracking, and blocking the user's online behavior, and then generating reports or real-time alerts that are sent to designated accountability partners. The goal is to promote transparency and open communication about online habits, and to provide support and encouragement for positive behavior changes. Involves monthly subscription cost.

5. Ad Content Blockers:

AdBlock Plus (https://adblockplus.org/)

Blocks intrusive ads and improves browsing experience. Free.

Unique feature: "Acceptable Ads" where users can choose to see non-intrusive ads.

uBlock Origin (https://ublockorigin.com/)

Open Source software, Blocks ads and trackers. Free.

Unique feature: "Dynamic Filtering" which allows users to create custom filters.

AdGuard (https://adguard.com/)

Blocks ads and trackers. Subscription prices start at $2.49/month.

Unique feature: "DNS filtering" which blocks ads at the DNS level.

6. Misc. Tool Bag

Good Book Reading Lists

Read Aloud Revival (https://readaloudrevival.com/)

Honey for a Child's Heart (https://a.co/d/0TDfGSi)

Sonlight Books (https://www.sonlight.com/homeschool/subjects/just-great-books)

Five Novels: (https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-novels-christian-read/)

Eight Work of Fiction (https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/8-works-fiction-every-christian-read/)

"Open Book" Home Policy

Open access / passwords to all electronic devices; non-defensive permission

Alternative Social Media & Web Apps

Locket Snapchat Alt.

iPhone: (https://apps.apple.com/us/app/locket-widget/id1600525061)

Android (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.locket.Locket)

Mozilla Firefox Web browser Alt. (Google Chrome / MS Edge)

https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/

Accountability Group

A group of people you meet with face to face to openly share, encourage and pray for one another's spiritual health and transformation.

Others:

3.2. The Thing About Tools

Tools are only useful if…

You know where to _____ _____.

You know how to _____ _____.

You have a _____ ____ _____ them to work.

Ephesian 5:15-17: *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*