

Homelife Building your family's faith at home

Guides

The Media-Wise Family: Vetting

In today's digital age, the media plays a significant role in shaping the worldview and values of our children. As conservative Christian parents, it is crucial that we stay vigilant about the media consumed by our young kids. Society often promotes a worldview that may be contrary to our beliefs and values. The purpose of this guide is to provide tips on how to monitor and promote healthy media consumption for children, emphasizing the importance of heart change over behavior modification.

1. Understand the Influence of Media

Media content has a powerful influence on children's beliefs, attitudes and behaviors. It is critical to recognize that most media content does not align with our Christian values. Take the time to understand the impact media can have on your children's worldview and be proactive in guiding their media choices.

2. Set Clear Boundaries

"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" (Psalm 101:3).

Establish clear guidelines and boundaries regarding media consumption in your home. This includes setting limits on screen time, specifying appropriate content, and creating media-free zones or times. Consistency is key in enforcing these boundaries. *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4).

3. Be Involved and Engaged

Take an active interest in the media your children are consuming. Watch movies, TV shows and videos together as a family. This allows you to assess the content and engage in meaningful discussions about the messages portrayed. Encourage critical thinking and help your children discern between positive and negative influences.

4. Research and Vet Media

Before allowing your children to watch or engage with any media content, you must research and vet it thoroughly. Look for reviews, ratings and recommendations from trusted sources. Three resources that can assist you in this process are:

Minno: Minno (gominno.com) is a streaming platform that offers a wide range of Christian and family-friendly content. It provides a safe and wholesome environment for children to explore media while aligning with conservative Christian values.

MovieGuide: MovieGuide (movieguide.org) is a comprehensive resource that provides reviews and ratings for movies and TV shows from a Christian perspective. It offers valuable insight regarding the content, themes and messages portrayed in various media.

Qustodio: Qustodio (qustodio.com) is a parental control software that allows you to monitor and manage your children's online activities. It enables you to set screen time limits, block inappropriate content, and track their digital footprint.

5. Foster Heart Change

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (Proverbs 4:23, NIV). While it is essential to monitor and filter the media your children consume, remember that true transformation comes from a change of heart rather than mere behavior modification. Focus on nurturing a personal relationship with God and teaching biblical principles that will guide their decision-making process.

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6. Encourage Media Alternatives

Promote alternative forms of media that align with your conservative Christian values. Encourage your children to engage in activities such as reading books, listening to Christian music, and participating in wholesome hobbies. This helps broaden their media choices and exposes them to positive influences.

As parents, it is our responsibility to vet the media our young kids consume. By setting clear boundaries, being involved, researching and vetting media, fostering heart change, and promoting alternative media, we can guide our children toward healthy media consumption. Remember to utilize resources such as Minno, MovieGuide and Qustodio to assist you in this journey. Together, we can protect our children's hearts and minds from the dangerous influences of the culture around us.

For additional resources, scan code:



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