

# Media Evaluation Guide

## 1. **Discover** – What is the message and worldview?

- What's the main topic and theme?
- What's the mood?
- How is it intended to make viewers/listeners feel? How does it make me feel?
- Does it manipulate viewers'/listeners' emotions in any way?
- Does it (overtly or covertly) suggest how I should think, speak, act, or live?
- What does it say about the way the world is? and... the way the world ought to be?
- Is there right and wrong? What's portrayed as right and what's portrayed as wrong?
- How are right and wrong determined?
- Is there a hero? Is there a villain? What do they stand for?
- What values and beliefs are presented as virtuous? and... presented as bad?
- Who or what is the source of authority? What's the attitude toward authority?
- How is God portrayed? What does it say about God? Who or what is God (or god)?
- Is the one true God replaced by some other "deity" (self, money, sex, and so on)?
- How are human beings portrayed? Where is human value and worth found?
- How is beauty established, portrayed, and defined?
- What does it say about how to treat others?
- Are people "used?" Are they portrayed as a "means to an end?"
- What is the source of happiness and satisfaction in life?
- Does it send any messages about what makes a person "successful" in life?
- What does it say about what's wrong with the world?
- Does it suggest any solution(s) to life's problems? If so, what are those solutions?
- Who or what is glorified or praised?
- What does it say about peace and hope? Are suggestions made about where they can be found?
- Is it hopeful or hopeless? How?
- What character traits are portrayed as positive? Negative?

## 2. **Discern** - How does it compare with the biblical message and worldview?

Discernment is the practice of looking more closely at what you've discovered and distinguishing those things God says are good, true, healthy, and right from those things God says are evil, false, dangerous, and wrong. Compare and contrast the media's answers to the questions above with God's answer to those questions.

## 3. **Decide** - What do I do with it?

Now it's time to make a decision about the media you're evaluating. The decision needs to be made on two levels. First, you need to decide if the media has value for your personal entertainment and enjoyment. If what is being taught is in agreement with biblical truth, reflects a Christian worldview, and draws you closer to the image of Christ, then celebrate and enjoy. But if it seems to contradict what God has said is right and leads you away from Christ, then you need to ask yourself if you should listen or watch.

Second, you need to decide if the media has ministry value. How does the media piece help me to see and understand the worldview and needs of my unbelieving friends and their culture? How would Jesus share his gospel and message with people who think and live with this worldview? How does God want me to respond to these needs?