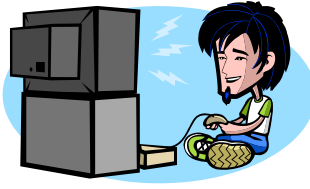


# *Tune In* Before You **Turn It Off**

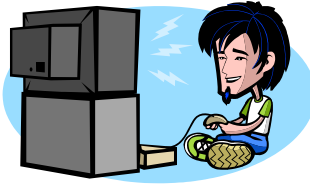
- *Connecting with your teens through their media choices*



- Youth Ministry – Judo Style
  - Don't fight against your kids, risking alienation and damaged relationship. Instead, connect with them where they are, applying guidance through that connection to lead them to the healthiest place you can.
- That Loud Noise Coming from the iPod May Be a Cry for Help!
  - Be very careful about simply dismissing vile music, movies, etc. If they really relate to it, you are essentially dismissing them in the process. Instead, find out how they connect with it, and how it touches them. If you can display calm and loving acceptance in the midst of rage or self-injury music, you'll be amazed how much your kids will tell you.
- Don't Expect Them to Turn It Off Until They Understand Why
  - Your job is not to protect them from the evils of worldly media (which are legion!). You can make them turn it off while you are around, but they will just turn it back on and get better at keeping it from you and their parents. Your job is to guide their walk with Christ in such a way that they are empowered by His Spirit to stand against evil without your protection. (And, of course, this job is primarily their parents' job, but that is a discussion for another class.) Equip them through sharing the Word, modeling the Jesus way of life, and nurturing their engagement in regular spiritual disciplines.
- Regularly Invite Your Teens to Share Their Favorite Media with You
  - Offer times with your kids where they select the music, movies, games, etc, with a promise from you that they won't be criticized or punished for their choices. The only requirement is they must tell you: 1. why they like it, 2. what it means to them, and 3. what they believe are the moral or life implications. After they have shared with you, engage them in their thoughts, particularly regarding number 3, offering your own perspectives and Biblical guidance. Work together to find some passage of scripture that relates to their media choice.
- Encourage Parents to Participate in This Process, In Family Units and Groups

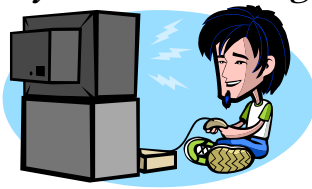
## Tune In Before You Turn It Off

- *Connecting with your teens through their media choices*

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# ***Tune In*** Before You **Turn It Off**

- *Connecting with your teens through their media choices*



## **Resources**

**“Hurt: Inside the World of Today’s Teenagers”** by Chap Clark (Baker, 2004)

**“Movie-Based Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching: 101 Clips to Show or Tell”** by Craig Brian Larson & Andrew Zahn (Zondervan, 2003)

**“Movie Nights: 25 Movies to Spark Spiritual Discussions with Your Teen”** edited by Bob Smithouser (Tyndale House, 2002)

**“Movie Nights for Teens: 25 More Movies to Spark Spiritual Discussions with Your Teen”** edited by Bob Smithouser (Tyndale House, 2005)

**“Nourishing Faith Through Fiction: Reflections of the Apostles’ Creed in Literature and Film”** by John R. May (Sheed & Ward, 2001)

**“Rent Two Films And Let’s Talk in the Morning” (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)** by John W. Hesley & Jan G. Hesley (John Wiley & Sons, 2001)

**“ScreamFree Parenting: Raising Your Kids by Keeping Your Cool”** by Hal E. Runkel (Greenleaf Book Group, 2005)

**“Why Do They Act That Way?: A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You and Your Teen”** by David Walsh & Nat Bennett (Simon & Schuster, 2005)

[www.christiananswers.net/spotlight/](http://www.christiananswers.net/spotlight/) (*Christian Spotlight on Entertainment*)

[www.hollywoodjesus.com](http://www.hollywoodjesus.com) (*Hollywood Jesus*)

[www.mediafamily.com](http://www.mediafamily.com) (*MediaWise*)