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# Discovery

*Scripture & Science for Kids*



# CORRUPTION IN HOLLYWOOD

Don Breckwoldt/Dreamstime.com



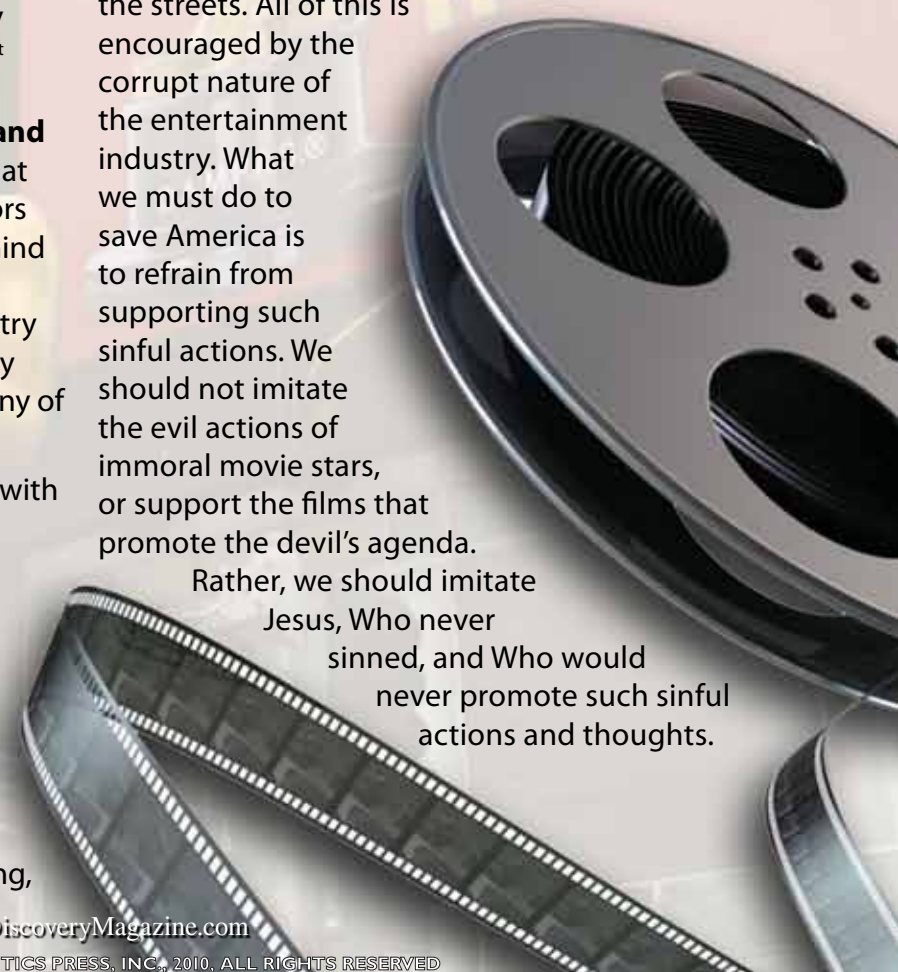
Would you like to be a famous actor or actress? Would you like to star in the leading role of an action movie? Can you hear your name being announced to the world as the winner of an Oscar award? If you can, you are certainly not alone. Millions of kids hope to be famous movie stars one day. But it is extremely difficult in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to be a faithful Christian and an actor or actress at the same time. Actors frequently leave behind Christian morals. The entertainment industry is a major reason why America has lost many of her godly values.

Hollywood is filled with individuals who have rejected the morality taught in the Bible. Though actors often discuss their religious backgrounds and faith, they contradict themselves by starring in movies that promote sins such as lying, stealing,

adultery, homosexuality, sex, drugs, crime, gang activity, and even murder. When an actor wins an award, we often hear the person praise God for helping them through struggles in life. They often thank God for the things they have, but do they mean what they say? They may turn right around and star in a movie that blasphemes God's name. The film characters often encourage cursing, lying, cheating, stealing, and having sexual relations outside of a lawful marriage. Even though the actors may not commit these sins in real life, by endorsing evil, they influence those who watch the movies. The entertainment industry not only portrays such sins in the movies, but glamorizes these sins by implying that "everybody is doing it." Be assured, God is not satisfied with such actions. God hates sin (Romans 12:9), and glamorizing it is evil (see Philippians 3:19).

Murder rates are soaring, theft has increased, nations are at war, many people live in fear because of gang violence, and illegal drugs are sold on the streets. All of this is encouraged by the corrupt nature of the entertainment industry. What we must do to save America is to refrain from supporting such sinful actions. We should not imitate the evil actions of immoral movie stars, or support the films that promote the devil's agenda.

Rather, we should imitate Jesus, Who never sinned, and Who would never promote such sinful actions and thoughts.



# COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Guys, imagine yourself surrounded by your friends. Everyone is laughing and having a great time. Girls

are constantly coming up to you, talking to you, and being nice to you. Everything seems great, even down to your brand new sports car. Girls, imagine that you are surrounded by guys who adore you. You are having a wonderful time; giggles fill the air. Sounds nice, right? Sounds like a dream, right? According to some advertisements, that is exactly what will happen to you if you drink beer or smoke cigarettes.

Certain commercials are very misleading, especially beer commercials. They use immodestly dressed women to sell beer, trying to make you think that if you drink their beer then everything will go well for you. People will surround you and think you are the coolest person on Earth. You will drive a cool car. "Fun" vacations to the beach are normal for people who drink beer—according to the commercials.

These people do not show us the real effects of their product. People who drink are not happy, wealthy, or blessed because they drink. Rather, many are unhealthy, poor, and very sad. We need to know what is real and what is not, when watching commercials. When Jesus sent out the apostles to teach the Jews, He said: "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16). We must be wise enough to separate the truth from the lies. What we see in the commercials often is not what **really** happens, so we must not let the beautiful women, the handsome guys, the fast cars, or the illusion of happiness, fool us into doing what we know is wrong.

Sometimes advertisements make us think that everyone is drinking or smoking, so we should, too. As Christians, we have been commanded to leave the crowd, and not do what everyone else does: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). As a special people, we cannot simply do what everybody else does—we must do what God wants us to do. Instead of conforming to the world, we must transform ourselves into God's good, faithful children (Romans 12:2). And, as we go through life, let us not be fooled by lies in commercials.



# ALL MIXED TOGETHER

Sometimes young people go home from school and turn on the television to watch music videos. Some of those videos include our favorite songs. A few of these videos are fun and free from bad influences, but most of them contain objectionable things. There is nothing wrong with watching clean videos, but it is nearly impossible to watch clean videos on television without also seeing the bad ones. It is dangerous to turn on the television and watch music videos, because there is no way to know specifically what will air on any given afternoon. The good videos are mixed in with the bad ones. And unlike movies, music videos do not have a rating system to help you separate the harmless ones from the bad.

MTV, VH1, and BET all air videos glorifying sinful sexual activity, drug use, and materialism. Though some might say CMT is better, its videos also contain immodestly dressed men and women, alcohol, and bad language. In addition to exposing us to immoral content in an approved context, music videos distort our sense of reality. We know that what we watch is staged, but it still affects the way we think about the world and what we believe to be normal. You may not personally know anyone who dresses as immodestly as the girls in the videos, or lives in a huge mansion, or has soap-opera love affairs, but seeing these things over and over messes up our view of reality. Real-world experience tells us that average people do not do these things, yet music videos may encourage us to pursue those immoral ideals.

Music videos on major networks are almost impossible to filter, and their immorality far outweighs their entertainment value. This does not mean that you have to give up all music videos, though. There are family programs on some channels that show videos suitable for a Christian to watch. Also, some artists produce clean videos that you can download from the Internet, or you can ask your parents to buy you a DVD of the video. Furthermore, some satellite and cable providers now offer channels that play music all day long without any videos. Just remember always to plan ahead what music videos you will watch. Do not let the television decide what will influence your thoughts. **You decide!**



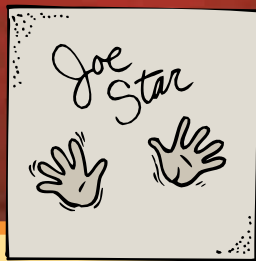
Do you like to sing to music? Music is a big part of many people's lives. Twenty-four hours a day, you can find all kinds of music on the radio, which can be a scary thing. Some music is good, but some is not good at all. Some music is bad because it has bad language in it. We should not listen to singers who say filthy words. They should not be able to sell music like that, but they do because a lot of people buy it. Some people who make music do not care if what they sing is morally wrong. They simply want to sell music. And they will continue to sell their music, because people keep buying it!

Many people give excuses about why they listen to music that contains evil lyrics. One of the most popular excuses is, "I'm just listening to it for the music; I don't pay attention to the words." The truth is, listening to the music without hearing the words is almost impossible. Saying you listen to the music but not the words might be like saying you read a sinful picture book, but you don't really "look" at the pictures. We need to be honest and ask ourselves if Jesus would approve of us listening to music that contains wicked words.

The radio is one way of receiving things that you don't need to be hearing. Television has taken the place of the radio as the source with the most immorality offered in the media. Some radio talk shows are bad and should not be heard either. Thankfully, television and radio stations are required to censor (block) some of the inappropriate language that is recorded in the music they play. Remember though, the responsibility ultimately rests on us—we must stay away from that which is wrong, and follow that which is right. "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9).



# ACTIVITY PAGES



## PUMPKIN ART CONTEST

Hey kids, carve or paint a pumpkin and send us a photograph of your work! The pumpkin should show a character from *Discovery* magazine or Digger Doug's Underground. I will send a great prize to the reader who submits a picture of the winning pumpkin, and that picture will be published in an upcoming issue of *Discovery*. I must receive your photo by November 30 (I cannot return pictures, so save a copy). Parents can help with this project. Good luck!



**SEND YOUR PHOTOGRAPH TO:  
DIGGER DOUG  
230 LANDMARK DR.  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36117**



## FILL IN THE BLANKS



1. Velsioneit \_\_\_\_\_
2. Aolrm \_\_\_\_\_
3. Vmeoi \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bbeil \_\_\_\_\_
5. Yooholdlw \_\_\_\_\_

1. We should be careful of what we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Actors and actresses often reject God's standard for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It is difficult to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and a movie star as well.
4. Film characters often \_\_\_\_\_ obscene content.
5. We should be careful what we watch on \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We should keep our \_\_\_\_\_ pure.
7. "Be \_\_\_\_\_, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).
8. "Abhor what is \_\_\_\_\_. Cling to what is \_\_\_\_\_" (Romans 12:9).

## UNSCRAMBLE

## TRUE OR FALSE

1.  It doesn't matter what we watch on TV.
2.  Hollywood often rejects the morality taught in the Bible.
3.  The entertainment industry always follows God's teachings.
4.  All movie producers are concerned about your soul.
5.  We should stay away from every form of evil.
6.  Television affects our minds.
7.  Hollywood cares greatly about money and fame.
8.  The brain receives information through our five senses.
9.  We should not fill our minds with wicked things.
10.  We should be careful what we see and hear.



"Leviathan"  
Illustrated by  
Matthew Jackson  
Bangs, TX

Dear Digger Doug,  
Do you think it is unwise to watch television?



Dear reader,

When you sit down to watch television programs, you must first obey the rules your parents have set. Some parents do not want their kids watching any television, and that is just fine. This eliminates any temptation the television can bring to kids. If you are allowed to watch television in a manner where you follow all of the rules and are smart in your decisions, the television is not a bad thing. But television often has many inappropriate shows that are bad influences for kids.

We must remember that God is omnipresent, meaning He is present everywhere, and that He is omniscient, meaning He knows everything. Just think about it: God is there while you watch television. He knows and sees everything. With that in mind, you must choose the programs you watch very carefully. If you are in a situation where you are not quite sure what the best choice is, ask yourself the question, "What would Jesus do if He were here?" Would He watch an inappropriate program—or would He watch no television at all? Many times, the best thing to do is not watch television at all, because this will get rid of all the "TV temptations" completely. Remember: What would Jesus do?



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# Be CAREFUL LITTLE Eyes

There are a lot of things we learn as small children that really help us throughout life. For example, we memorize songs like "Oh, be careful little eyes what you see." When we're younger, we may not think much about it, because we simply think of it as a fun song. However, these simple words are full of life-changing wisdom.

The psalmist once declared: "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes" (Psalm 101:3). In other words, if he had a choice about it, he was not going to watch or look at anything sinful. Every Christian should have this attitude. Paul told the Romans that our love for God should

be consistent, and then he defined how this could be done: "Abhor [or hate] what is evil. Cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9). It should make us sick to see sinful activity, and if we "despise" evil as we should, then we will have no problem shielding it from our sight. However, this type of attitude toward sin is not as common as it should be. Sometimes, evil things are placed before us without our consent. But many times, people **choose** to place evil things before their eyes. More often than not, this happens when we look for entertainment. Consider what we watch on television, or what movies we see. When we buy tickets to, or rent, an R-rated movie, we may be **choosing** to allow sinful things to be placed before our eyes. And though it may not seem like a "big deal" at first, the more we do it, the more we get used to seeing it, and the less we "abhor" evil.

This is not what God has in mind for us. Peter told us that "as He [God] who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15-16). The evil things that this world calls "entertainment," should not be the things that entertain the children of God (1 John 2:15). Remember, those movies and television shows are not our only sources of entertainment. If we choose to do so, we can find amusement in the pure and innocent things of life. May we always remember these precious words: "Oh, be careful little eyes what you see."

## ANSWERS

FILL IN THE BLANKS: 1. see, heart; 2. morality; 3. Christian; 4. encourage; 5. television; 6. thoughts; 7. holy; 8. evil, good.  
 TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-T; 3-F; 4-F; 5-T; 6-T; 7-T; 8-T; 9-T; 10-T. UNSCRAMBLE: 1. television; 2. moral; 3. movie; 4. Bible; 5. Hollywood.  
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