

Media Centers: Motion Picture Studio

This activity is designed to help children, youth and adults grow in their understanding and desire to share the Good News. Participants will discover how TV, Movies and video games influence our hearts, minds, and motivations for sharing faith. They will also become acquainted with websites that provide practical tools for discernment and other resources for nurturing faith. A "Mind-shaping Media" reference will give participants an opportunity to take a snapshot of their individual and family viewing habits as they embrace Romans 12:2.

Other resources have been designed to integrate the content of each learning center with the overall theme. The FPBN Gathering activities will introduce and distribute them for participant to use as they move through the "Go -Tell" Media Centers. FPBN I.D. Cards will recognize each participant as a member of the Faith Public Broadcasting Network and "Go-Tell" megaphones will be utilized to celebrate Jesus' invitation (Matthew 28:19) to go tell God's Story. "Go-Tell" stickers have been designed to distribute and display key learnings from the "Go-Tell" Media Centers on the megaphones for future reference.

The Leader's Notes for this activity, along with any needed preparations and supplies, are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating the details and tasks involved. You may wish to display a sign to identify each learning center. A Media Center sign design (PDF file) is provided for this purpose.

Approximate time: 10-15 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- [Mind-shaping Media sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Mind-shaping Media reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- ["Go -Tell" reference sheet #3](#) (PDF file)
- ["Go -Tell" sticker sheet C](#) (PDF file)
- ["Go -Tell" table tents](#) (PDF file)
- [Planning Grid](#) (PDF file)
- A video or DVD about Jesus (See Leader's Notes)
- AVERY #5366 file labels (2/3" x 3 – 7/16")
- Video camera
- A TV/VCR

Leaders Notes:

Videotape brief segments of popular TV shows to use as story-starters. Record up to 30-seconds of each program. Choose a variety of shows to appeal to the various ages and stages of your participants.

Locate a video or DVD about Jesus to use along with your recording. You may wish to consider purchasing some great new videos from the Jesus Video Project. "The Story of Jesus for Children" features children enacting a story that might have taken place in A.D. 30. A video/DVD titled "Jesus" is geared for youth and audiences. Check out www.jesusvideo.org for guidelines on purchase and delivery. Display a few other videos that participants might recognize.

Make a sample Mind-shaping Media booklet for easy reference.

- Use a paper cutter to trim the sheet along the solid line border.
- Fold the sheet lengthwise, along the centerline.
- Continue folding the sheet accordion-style, using the solid lines as a guide. Begin by placing the “Mind-shaping Media” design on top.

Download a “Go-Tell” table tent to identify the location of this activity. Fold the sheet lengthwise and cut along the solid line of the megaphone above the fold to set it apart from the rest of the table tent. Designate a number to identify this activity in the space provided.

Make a copy of the “Go -Tell” reference sheet #3 and use the file labels to print “Go -Tell” sticker sheet B. Place a sticker on a megaphone for easy reference. See [Proclamation Station: Now & Then](#) for the pattern and instructions for making a megaphone.

Display the “Possibilities for Proclamation” sheet that identifies TV stations, programs and movies that participants have viewed. (It was used in the Proclamation Station: Now & Then Gathering Activity.)

Note: Several references are made to the work of the National Institute for Media and the Family. You may wish to check out the website www.mediafamily.org to become familiar with their work.

Activities:

Display the Possibilities for Proclamation sheet focusing on TV and motion picture communication. Identify some of the TV stations, programs and movies listed on the sheet. Ask them how many TV channels they think are currently available through local, cable and satellite services. Encourage them to make a list of the variety of different TV programs produced (News, sports, comedies, soap operas, cartoons, dramas and action or suspense thrillers, educational programs, movies, musical presentations). Point out that they all address a perceived need for information. Whether in story form, stand-up comedy or documentary, the Nielson ratings reveal our fascination with them.

Ask them to name their favorite movies/TV show and their reason for choosing it. Recognize the loyalty we have to specific programs and the emotional attachment we have to many of the characters and storylines. Mention that research done by the National Institute for Media and the Family states that the average home invests at least 35 hours a week in electronic media.

Use your video recording of TV programs to engage participants in describing the storyline of each program. Present the video featuring the life and/or ministry of Jesus last. Ask them to identify some of the stories they know about Jesus.

David Walsh, the director of the National Institute for Media and the Family states “the one who tells the story defines the culture.” His research confirms TV and Movies to be the most influential storytellers of our culture and society today. Invite participants to comment on the effect TV, movies and video games in shaping our values and perspectives about life. Ask them how God and Christian values or lifestyles are characterized and portrayed.

Display “Go-Tell” reference sheet #3 and state that TV, movies and video games have the potential to strongly influence our hearts, minds, and motivations for sharing faith.

Invite your participants to take a snapshot of their TV viewing. Display a sample “Mind-shaping Media” brochure as you distribute sheets for each participant to fold. Demonstrate how to fold it into a booklet for easy reference. Point out the Bible verse on the “cover” of the little booklet. Ask them to comment on the affect this Bible verse might have on their TV viewing. Make enough copies so that each family or individual can take an additional copy with them for future reference.

Distribute the “Go-Tell” stickers as you stress the importance of making lifestyle choices that reflect a commitment to strong Christian values. Encourage participants to adhere the stickers to their megaphone for future reference.