

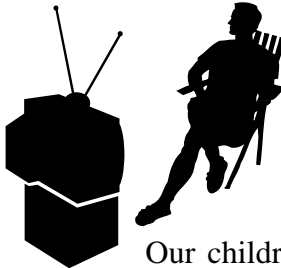


The Great Escape

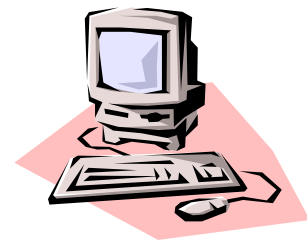


Everyone has had the desire to escape from something that is difficult. The most popular words for today have become, “I’m outta’ here!” Our human personality, the soul of us, wants peace and pleasure. That’s it! That’s what we’re all trying to get – and when things get hard in our life and we’re under a lot of stress because we can’t make the problems go away, we look for an “escape” – thinking, if it won’t go away, I will.

The biggest way of escape today is television. We watch it for amusement – even though there is not much on it that is amusing anymore. The word amuse means “no thought.” And that’s what we want – we don’t want to think about the painful stuff we’re dealing with, we want to escape from those thoughts that upset us. With the TV on, we don’t have to think at all – in fact it’s better if we don’t – and we don’t have to participate, we can just sit back and let everything and anything that comes on the screen have direct entrance into our mind – not realizing that we are mindlessly taking in harmful materials to our soul.



Our children are being conditioned to follow the same pattern for handling difficulty or unhappiness. Mother is busy with her own problems, and doesn't want to deal with her child's problems, so she turns on the TV set to amuse him so he will forget his problems and escape from his feelings. As our children grow up they are finding a second escape – in case they get bored with the first one. They can go to a computer and talk to it instead of mom whose too busy – and the computer will give it's form of wisdom and advice back to your child. He will begin to accept and believe the advice of his computer and the TV more than he will accept and believe the advice from mom because the machines always have time for him, but mom doesn't.



They are even developing computers now that are in life-like robots that know you and what you like and will one day become baby-sitters for our children. Children are in their formative years and they actually learn what they see on TV and computers. They are taking in raw information without wisdom or discretion to choose what is true and what is not so they accept it all as true. They are no longer learning and being taught by their parents – because it is a new computer generation and most parents don't even know as much as their children do about computers and the internet, chat rooms and web sites. Children are becoming more isolated from interpersonal relationships with family and friends – and playing outdoors after school is

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changing into a child indoors sitting at his computer playing a game alone, or sitting in front of the TV.

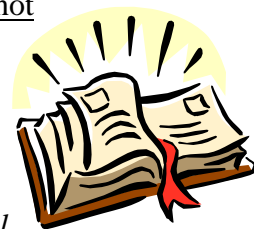
As a parent, you will have to take your position as the one who will teach your child wisdom and knowledge from the Bible so he will understand that there is a big difference between knowledge vs. information. Information is simply input that comes into us through our 5 senses of seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting. Knowledge is the filing system that files every bit of information with similar information that was already filed. Wisdom is knowing how to use the knowledge we have learned to help ourselves and others.



“If you cry after knowledge and lift up your voice for understanding; if you seek wisdom as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the awesome reverence of the Lord and find the knowledge of God; for the Lord gives wisdom, and out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:3-6)

How do you find the words the Lord spoke out of His mouth? By reading the Bible. We will not find wisdom and knowledge to handle our difficulties and problems until we start facing them, seeking God for His plan for us, and stop trying to escape from our life. As a woman of God, you must be mentally strong enough to accept your problems as yours, and emotionally stable enough to seek solutions for them instead of escapes from them – walking tall in the joy of your salvation, knowing we have the knowledge of the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ dwelling within us.

That knowledge makes the things of earth grow very dim in the light of His glory and grace. *“For in Him are hid all the treasures (wealth) of wisdom and knowledge.” (Colossians 2:3)* The treasures of wisdom and knowledge are not found in the TV set. Make the decision today! Choose God’s Word treasury to read instead of staring mindlessly into the TV screen. You can’t believe in someone or something that you have no knowledge of. And God said, *“My people perish for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6)* You will find new family members in the Word of God: *“Say unto wisdom, ‘you are my sister; and call understanding your kinswoman.’” (Proverbs 7:4)*



Turn off the TV and read! The rewards of seeking God will bless your life and remove the need to escape from it.



The Great Escape

This is one of those lessons that is better to be discussed than have questions and answers. The decisions you make about this lesson can make a huge difference in your life and the lives of your children.

- Talk about ways you have learned to make an “escape.”
- Is TV a problem for you – do your kids watch it too much?
- Talk about the effect of TV on us and our children.
- Discuss how our “escapes” train our children to do the same thing.
- Talk about your Bible reading. Let House Managers help you.
- Discuss your Memory Verse (Hosea 4:6) and what it means.

MEMORY VERSE (Hosea 4:6) “My people perish for lack of knowledge.”