

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. (1 Timothy 4:15)

Reaching Children in the TV Age

Some principles

- 1 Timothy 6:17
- Philippians 4:8

Some considerations

- ◆ In his book *Kid's Culture (Scripture Union 2003)* Nick Harding quotes a 1999 survey of time spent watching TV which found that children aged 4-15 watched an average of 18 hours of live TV each week.
- ◆ In our Western post-modern culture TV increasingly directs not only our knowledge of the world but also the ways in which we are to understand our world.
- ◆ TV is 'image' driven.
- ◆ Information is communicated with rapid fire and often little connection.
- ◆ Information is often communicated through the 'feeling gate' – emotions, impressions, stimulation.
- ◆ Communication is 'instant'.
- ◆ TV watching requires less skill than reading a book and is more passive.
- ◆ TV is entertainment driven.
- ◆ 'Soaps' are the most popular genre with children. There has been recent concern expressed in the media about the effects of violence in 'soaps', especially that violence is often seen as productive – it works!
- ◆ As many as two-thirds of the programmes watched by children are intended for an adult audience.

Some reflections

Consider the view that TV gives a child of the world and compare it with the view of the world that the Bible gives children.
Write each view in separate columns:

- ◆ *The world through the eyes of TV*
- ◆ *The world through the eye of the Bible*

How can we use the fact that children watch so much TV in our teaching?

How should we challenge the values and influences of TV?

