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You're driving your teen or tween home from school and they turn on the radio. An inappropriate song comes on. Not pure filth, but just one of those typical songs that teach our kids sex is no big deal, and it's the most rewarding solution to the loneliness we feel. You've probably heard countless examples of these songs playing in every grocery store, gym and Wal Mart across the country. You don't have to look far. Songs with lyrics like:

*"Call me on my cell phone
Late night when you need my love
I know when that hotline bling
That can only mean one thing..."*
(Hotline Bling, Drake)

*Baby girl, you're so damn fine though
I'm tryna know if I could hit it from behind though...*
(679, Fetty Wap)

*"Gonna wear that dress you like, skin-tight
Do my hair up real, real nice
And syncopate my skin to your heart beating...
Let me show you how proud I am to be yours
Leave this dress a mess on the floor..."*
(Good for You, Selena Gomez)

Our kids encounter the same messages on their screens all too often: sex, violence, drug use, and just plain irresponsible behavior with no apparent consequences. The question is, how are we supposed to respond when we encounter content like this?

Maybe you've tried turning it off. "This is pure filth! We won't be listening to this in our car!" Silence.

Sure, you established who's boss, and you've shown them the line you draw... but did they learn anything? Are they going to skip this kind of entertainment media when they are alone when you're not standing over their shoulder? Would a calm conversation have maybe yielded better results?

Even if you are a firm believer in 'interaction' instead of 'overreaction', sometimes it's difficult to know what to ask in these teaching moments. If you're like me, I find it hard to think of questions on the fly. So what do you ask when it's just you, your kids... and Rihanna? What is the best way to get them thinking about their entertainment media choices?

Here are four questions you can ask in almost any of these situations. They're logical, they aren't accusative, they just require your kids to pause and think about the content their absorbing for an average of 9 hours a day.*

4 Questions Helping Kids Pause and Think:

1. What did he just say?

Whenever you encounter something blatantly inappropriate, just calmly bring it to light with a simple question like, "What did he say in that chorus?" Make sure you ask this with a tone of curiosity, not judgment. The goal is to engage our kids in conversation. It won't work if they smell a trap.

2. What did he mean?

Then ask your kids to interpret the content they just encountered. Sometimes our kids hear lyrics but don't process them. Ask, "What did he mean by that?" This question simply prompts them to think about the words or images they're encountering. Realize this might be the first time they consider what they're absorbing from this content.

3. Is he right?

Get them to think about the ramifications. When Sheldon sleeps with Amy before they're married ask, "Was he right?" Or use a version of Doctor Phil's famous question, "How's that been working out for you?" Ask, "How do you think that will turn out for them?"

Resist the urge to tell them what you think. In other words, play dumb if you encounter a magazine headline that reads, "How an Affair Can Help Your Marriage." Ask your kids, "Do you think this is good advice? Why not?" Help them apply their own values to the situation.

4. How do you know?

This question encourages them to support their values with scripture. Ask, "How do we know it's not good to engage in sexual intimacy before marriage? What does the Bible say?"

Don't feel the pressure to turn every moment into a teaching moment. Pick your battles. Our world is so jam packed with inappropriate content we'd have to have seventeen conversations a day! But don't be afraid to hit the pause button every once in a while and ask, "What did she just say?"

These four questions move us from a position of lecturing to listening. They also help our kids learn to discern on their own.

Isn't that what parents want?

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