

New videos for children:

“Escape from the Forbidden Matrix, Adventures in Odyssey”, by Focus on the Family.

In this well-done animated cartoon that can be enjoyed by children and adults, two pre-teen boys, Sal and Dylan, who has a time-consuming obsession / compulsion / addiction to computer video games, have an exciting fantasy adventure in a giant computer before returning to the real world outside the computer.

Sal asks Dylan [while they are still outside the computer], “Do you think you should be playing computer games as much as you do?.....There are lots of other things to do..... like playing ball, riding bikes, and going on hikes”.

The boys enter the computer and have a meaningful dialogue with the satanical “Master Brain”:

MB: “I would like to make you a most attractive offer.”

Boys: “What kind of offer?”

MB: “I have power to give you unlimited access to my game room which contains everything you could ever want to play. You may play day and night if you wish.”

Boys: “And what do you want in return?”

MB: “I require only one thing - your time.”

Boys: “Will we be able to do anything besides play video game, like playing outside? Will we be able to talk to each other?”

MB: “You will be playing video games - there will be no need for talk or anything else.”

Boys: “This just doesn’t feel right.”

Gregory [a 12-year-old within the computer who looks liked an aged man because of his addiction to computer video games], tells the boys, “The way he [Master Brain] lives is by sucking the life out of kids. Time, life, same thing. Something I learned here --- when you waste your time, you waste your life. I didn’t realize that while I was playing, my life was draining away. Then one day it was too late. You’re down to one life now, guys, make the most of it”.

Before escaping from the computer, the boys have this further dialogue with Master Brain:

Boys: “You’re not my master.”

MB: “There is only one master here and you will obey”.

MB: “I am your master.”

Boys: “Not anymore.”

Eugene [an older, wiser friend of the boys, outside the computer] tells them, “Time is one of God’s most precious gifts. It’s a shame to squander it on such frivolous activities..... That’s why in 1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV), the Bible tells us that ‘Everything is permissible for me - but not everything is beneficial.....I will not be mastered by anything’ Of course that doesn’t mean you can’t play computer games on occasion. The key is to master them instead of letting them master you”. English. DVD. **[C815 m]**

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“Race to Freedom, Adventures in Odyssey”, by Focus on the Family. In this well-done cartoon that can be enjoyed by the whole family, two young friends, Dylan who is white-skinned and Carter who is dark-skinned, living in modern day United States, enter a time machine called an “Imagination Station” and are brought back in time to the southern USA of the year 1856.

There, their lot in life changes dramatically. Dylan enjoys the life of the white slave-owning plantation owners. Carter lives the life of the black slave with the family of a compassionate young black girl, Mary, subject to all the traditions of the institution of slavery - picking cotton, living in slave quarters, sleeping on beds of straw, eating meager meals, master

and slave relationship, slave overseers, slave whippings, slave auctions, separation of slave families, runaway slaves, and runaway-slave-chasing dogs. Their relief comes from the slavery abolitionists [largely influenced by evangelicals] and the so-called Underground Railway.

One “conductor” on the Underground Railway, a white abolitionist clergyman (Reverend Andrew), encourages the escaping slaves, “Have faith. With God’s help, we’ll get you north to the free states, then Canada”, and he challenges them to do more than just save themselves, “If you truly believe that all men are created equal by God, then you have to be willing to sacrifice your own freedom to secure someone else’s. So what will it be? Make your choice.”

Dylan and Carter finally do escape via the Underground Railway and the Imagination Station back to modern day USA. Mr Whitaker tells them, “All life is precious in God’s sight and we would do well to look at others the way God looks at us. The Bible tells us in 2 Chronicles 19: 7 (NIV) ‘Now let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery’. God loves all his children.” English. DVD. [C815n]

Other “Adventures in Odyssey” videos in AVBC video library - We have not reviewed them.

“**A flight to the finish**” - on caring for others. English. VHS. [C815a]

“**A fine feathered frenzy**”, on taking responsibility for one’s own actions. English VHS [C815b]

“**Star Quest**” - on jealousy and friendship. English. VHS. [C815d]

“**Once upon an avalanche**” - on kindness and brotherly love. English. VHS. [C815e]

“**Electric Christmas**” - on the true meaning of Christmas. English. VHS. [C815f]

“**Go west, young man**” - on courage & integrity; keeping one’s word. English. VHS. [C815g]

“**A twist in time**”, - even smallest action can have dramatic results. English. VHS. [C815h]

“**Last days of E. Meltsner**” - trust God, live each day as if it were your last. Engl VHS [C815i]

“**A stranger among us**” - on the power of things we put in our minds. English. VHS. [C815j]

“**In harm’s way**” & “**Baby daze**” -on accepting others who are different. English DVD [C815k]