

## Movies with a Message

Thursdays at 10 AM followed by discussion – bring your own lunch

In a book entitled “Your God is Alive and Well and Appearing in Popular Culture,” author John Wiley Nelson asks the question - Is it possible that American Christians hold to two distinct sets of beliefs and values without knowing the difference? One is a Christian set, which is openly affirmed every Sunday; the other is an American set, which is more hidden within the forms of our popular entertainment culture. Through mediums like Westerns, country music, and detective novels, John Nelson explains how we internalize our American values without even knowing it. This book was largely intended for preachers who, of all people, should realize how American Christians internalize both sets of values without understanding the contradictions. The purpose of this book was to help preachers and congregations alike recognize the differences in order to account for them in preaching as well as in the church's life in community.

Our next 6-week section of “Movies with a Message” will focus on Westerns. From Thursday, May 2 thru Thursday, June 6 we will view and discuss the values that we see in the following:

May 2	High Noon (2000 remake)
May 9	Tender Mercies
May 16	True Grit (2010 remake)
May 23	Unforgiven
May 30	The Outlaw Josey Wales
June 6	The Searchers

Are our values reflected in the movies? Have we adopted the values of the movies? These are the discussion starters. The conversations continue when we wonder if the movies and popular culture are a reflection of us – or are we in danger of being influenced by them.

See you at the movies.

Henry

