

## **SONG VALUE ANALYSIS:**

### **Culling values from ‘Pop hits’ and Popular Songs.**

#### **Intent of this Exercise:**

- ✓ *To discover the values advertised and glorified in today’s popular pop-songs.*
- ✓ *By studying the favorite songs of our youth, we can have an insight on their wants, longings, needs, aspirations, values and philosophy of life.*
- ✓ *By reflecting on the lyrics of today’s hits we may discover the longings and values of the world we live in.*
- ✓ *To evaluate the moral, and psychological impact such ‘pop-songs’ have on our youth.*
- ✓ *To counteract the evil effects of accepting the values of our world in an uncritical way.*

#### **Target Audience:**

- ✓ *Youngsters and Youth.*
- ✓ *Moderators of youth.*
- ✓ *General public.*

#### **Uses of these notes**

- ✓ *For value clarification events.*
- ✓ *For reflection and critical appraisal of the prevalent anti-Christian values of our world*
- ✓ *Youth encounters on love friendship and sex.*
- ✓ *To help teachers, youth moderators, group-facilitators, and vocation promoters to be relevant to our youth.*

#### **Requirements**

- ✓ *Writing material for all*
- ✓ *Recorded copies of the songs to be evaluated and printed copies of the lyrics.*
- ✓ *Copies for all participants of the reflection questionnaires found below.*

## **PROCEDURE:**

### **1. Introduction**

- Opening prayer
- Singing songs and/or hymns
- Explaining the nature of the day’s sessions.

#### **Personal Work**

- Distribute copies of the lyrics of the song to be analyzed.
- Take one song a time. *(Make sure that the songs chosen are popular, modern and such that offer you lots of matter for value analysis).*
- The house will begin the session by singing the song chosen.
- The group member will be asked to evaluate the lyrics of the song under study following the instructions given in the Reflection Questionnaire Form below.

## Reflection Questionnaire Form

### In silence and alone by yourself reply in writing to the following questions:

1. List all the tropics you can find, explicitly and implicitly, touched or contained in the song; e.g. Love, sex, money, friendship, etc?
2. What are the longings and desires expressed in the song? E.g. peace, satisfaction, pleasure, joy, etc?
3. Are there any questions the song is posing to us? Which? List them.
4. What's the ideology, ethos, and the values – “the philosophy of life’ – conveyed in the song? Explain. Do you agree with it? Why?
5. How does this song affect you? What are the feelings you experienced when you sang it or heard it sung? Describe.
6. What's the impact - open or hidden - the song had or might have had on you?
7. Do such songs help or hinder us living upright and moral lives? How?
8. Does the song tell you something of you? Of our youth? Of our world? What is that? Explain.

### 3. Group Work. Discussion

The moderator will chair the Group Discussion.

#### **Sharing the replies to the Questionnaire with the house.**

The moderator will request all members to take jottings of the proceedings of the group sharing.

✓

- ✓ All group members, will share their reflections on the questionnaire, one question at a time.
- ✓ While members share their reflections, only clarifications will be allowed, no discussion yet.
- ✓ When all members finished sharing their questions, and clarifications have been given discussion will start.

#### **Group Discussion**

The Moderator will initiate a group discussion on the following topics:

- Ideology – philosophy of life – imbedded in the song.
- Values implicit and explicit contained in the song. Do you agree with them?
- Yearnings, longings expressed in the song. Are they yours also?
- Are they good? Are they helpful?
- Any questions posed to us? Which?
- Do songs like this help us to be better persons and live upright and moral lives? How? Why?
- How do they, even without our realizing it, affect us?
- Have you ever critically evaluated such songs and realize what they do to you?

Moderator, please, invite reactions and encourage interactions among the participants.

### 4. Input:

- ✓ The moderator will close down the group session with a mop-up input.
- ✓ Some of the main points for teaching and instruction could be:

Values	Impact the songs have on us
Motivation	Fashions and fads
Longings	Social pressures
Freedom or libertinage.	Be yourself
Principles of living.	Live up to your convictions
Personality	Don't ape your peers.
Be Critical	Have courage to questioning things
Don't be gullible	Being assertive.
Don't like people only, love them.	Love others, don't lust for them.
Truth, beauty, virtue are not negotiable.	Best things in life cannot be bought.
Love, like and lust is not the same.	Pleasure is not joy.

## **5. Activities:**

*If you have time at your disposal, do not skip this step. It is very effective.*

### **Preparation:**

Each group will prepare one activity to exemplify any of the main findings of the day.

**Possible topics:** *Checking through my old records I found a long list of items youth, in previous occasions, brought as topics for their activities, such as:*

Assertion	Failure/success	Love	Protest
Authenticity	Family	Marriage	Relationships
Authority	Freedom	Meaning of life	Religion
Better World	Friendship	Money	Revenge
Brotherhood	God	Patriotism	Sadness/joy
Concern	Home	Peace	Selfishness
Conscience	Hypocrisy	Pleasure	Sex
Death	Jealousy	Popularity	Sincerity
Drinks	Justice /Injustice	Pornography	Status
Drugs	Libertinage	Power	Trust/distrust
Erotic	Lies/deception	Prayer	Understanding
Exploitation	Loneliness	Pride	War

### **Possible activities are:**

Comic strip	Puppet show	Slogans.
Case Study	Radio play	Debate
Mime	Posters	Film shooting
Script writing	Writing new songs	Etc.

### **Presentation:**

- ✓ The groups will present their activities to the house.
- ✓ A short evaluation, critic and study will follow each presentation.

## **6. Personal Reflection and Prayer:**

*Give the participants time for personal reflection and prayer.*

- ✓ Points for reflection and prayer could be:
- ✓ What are my values in life?
- ✓ What are my longings and aspirations?
- ✓ What are my goals and aims in life?
- ✓ How much influenced am I by the values of our world?
- ✓ By songs? Pictures? T.V? Video? Net? Etc.
- ✓ Do I stand by my principles and convictions, or am I carried away by the tide of fashions and fads of modern life?
- ✓ Is there anything I should change in my life? What? How?

*Ask the participants to pray to God for clear vision and for courage to be themselves.*

### **Recommended N. T. texts for the Group Prayer**

- Mt. 5/1-11 The Beatitudes
- Mt. 6/22-23 The eye of the body
- Mt. 12/33-35 A tree and its fruits
- Mt. 15/10-20 What makes a person unclean?
- Lk. 12/4-9 Whom to fear
- Jam. 4/4-6 Friendship with the world.