

"Let's Talk About Pornography"



THE TALK.

A NOTE TO LEADERS

Please remember, we want you to be able to be honest and vulnerable about where God has brought victory personally in your life, **but please share in a way that is age appropriate for your audience. Be cautious** in what you share, speaking generally and avoiding specifics or graphic comments. If you even question sharing something personal could cause a student to struggle, then especially for this series, hold off sharing.

This week and last week's lesson are closely related. Last **week we encouraged students to think through what they post online and this week's lesson encourages them to think through what they view online.**

If a student tells you they are struggling to stop watching pornography:

- **First, affirm** them for being vulnerable enough to tell you and to step up and ask for help. THAT IS HUGE!
- **If you are a high school student, ask if you both could go talk with an adult small group leader or staff** so we can walk alongside of you.
- **Let them know you'll be praying for them and there is some accountability software** they can use to help them (see below).
- **Remind them the more trusted people "on their team" helping them fight this struggle the better!** And yep, this includes parents! While watching pornography isn't a mandated reporting item you legally have to tell parents, **we highly encourage students to share this with their parents.** Your student may be terrified of this, but encourage them it's in their best interest and even offer to be with them with they tell their parents if that will help.

ACCOUNTABILITY SOFTWARE RESOURCES

Ever Accountable: <https://www.everaccountable.com/>

Accountable2you.app: <https://www.accountable2you.com/features>

Covenant eyes (better for computer): <http://www.covenanteyes.com/>

Net Nanny (gives deeper parental controls): <https://www.netnanny.com>

Triple X Church (free but limited): <https://x3watch.com/>

MAIN POINT: What happens in secret can cause separation.

OPENER:

Pick one or two of the questions below and have each of your students give an answer just to get them all talking:

- 1.** What's your favorite YouTube video right now (keep it clean people)?
(Let them talk about their videos, but don't watch them in small group! That's a rabbit trail you might never recover from. Instead, ask them to send you links and you'll compile a list of the best. Then send them the list during the week.)
- 2.** What are the rules in your house about using technology and the internet?

READ:

1 John 1:5-8

"⁵This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. ⁷But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin."

ASK:

- 1.** What does it mean to bring our sins into "the light"? Why does God want us to do that?
- 2.** Fellowship with God means to be at peace with Him. How can "living in spiritual darkness" cause separation between us and God?
- 3.** How can sin cause separation between us and others? What's an example?
- 4.** What are some of the negative impacts of viewing porn?

READ:

1 John 1: 8-10

⁸If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts."

ASK:

1. *We all have sinned and that sin causes separation between us and God. What do these verses say we should do when we sin?*

2. *What does it mean to "confess your sin?" Give an example.*

3. *Are there shows or movies your parents won't let you watch? How could that help protect you?*

4. *What are different ways we can strive to honor God in the choices we make when we are alone?*

UNPACK:

If we spend enough time on technology, something will pop up on it that we shouldn't see. The fact it pops up isn't our fault or a sin, but when we choose to keep watching something we shouldn't, that can be a sin. **It can be so easy to give into temptation thinking "No one will ever know."** But that fact is we know and God knows. **Sins, even ones that happen in secret, cause separation between us, God, and the life He has for us.** But the Good News is when we ask for forgiveness God is always faithful to forgive us. **His forgiveness brings us back into the light and we should try our best to live in the light.**

NEXT STEP: What is one way you can strive this week to live honoring to God with what you watch on your screen? (ex: respect what your parents don't want you watching, stop watching certain videos, turn off any questionable videos immediately and let your parents know they popped on your screen).
Close your time together in prayer.