

PARENT/STUDENT PORNOGRAPHY GUIDE

7th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have a conversation with your child about the dangers of pornography.

THE 411

Our students are surrounded by pornographic images, and it is now harder than ever for our students to resist the temptation of pornography. Each day, our children's access to pornography increases. What used to be available only through magazines and movies is now available at our fingertips within seconds because of phone, computers and media. Years ago it was easier to protect our students from the dangers of pornography by limiting the places they were allowed to visit and by controlling the proximity of our home computer. Now it is imperative that we keep open dialogue and continue to educate our students about the dangers of pornography. Pornography has gone mobile, and it is only a simple click away for our students. The issue has never been as serious in our world as it is today.

- 50 percent of all Christian men and 20 percent of Christian women think they are addicted to porn.
- 36 percent of Christian men look at pornography on a daily basis. Only 19 percent of Christian men read their Bible on a daily basis.
- 9 out of 10 boys are exposed to pornography before the age of 18.
- The first exposure to pornography among guys takes place on average at 11 years old.
- There are an estimated 400 million sexually explicit web pages on the Internet.
- 1 in 5 mobile searches are for pornography.
- 56 percent of all divorces in the United States cite a spouse's pornography addiction as a contributing factor.
- Porn increased marital infidelity by 300 percent.
- Porn sites receive more regular traffic than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined.

SUGGESTION ON APPROACH

Discussing pornography can be a tough subject to talk about openly. This conversation may best happen while in the car. A car provides a great way to talk about tough subjects without having to look each other in the eye. Use the suggestion below to have a conversation with your student about the dangers of pornography and to help them place safeguards in their life and to protect them from falling into temptation.

- This discussion guide is written for a one-time conversation, but we need to talk to our students about this on a regular basis.
- These conversations should come about naturally if we are paying attention to their world.
- We need to watch what they watch, read what they read, listen to what they listen to, and be friends with our students on Facebook and watch their activity on Twitter, Instagram, and other social media.
- By doing this, we will have more than enough opportunities to spark conversation on the topics of pornography, modesty and purity.

In other words, use a simple three step discussion system:

1. Ask your kids questions (open-ended are better);
2. Listen carefully to their answers;
3. Respond insightfully.

RESOURCES

SOFTWARE

X3watch: (www.x3watch.com) accountability software that you can download on your computer and mobile devices

Covenant eyes: (www.covenanteyes.com) Internet accountability and filtering software

Safe Eyes Mobile: Parental internet-controlled filter for mobile devices

Open DNS security and filtering for iOS devices: www.umbrella.com/products/mobility

BOOKS

Every Young Man's Battle by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker and Mike Yorkey

Preparing Your Son for Every Man's Battle: Honest Conversations About Sexual and Emotional Integrity by Stephen Arterburn

Preparing Your Daughter for Every Woman's Battle: Creative Conversations About Sexual and Emotional Integrity by Shannon Etheridge

Every Young Woman's Battle: Guarding Your Mind, Heart, and Body in a Sex-Saturated World by Shannon Etheridge and Stephen Arterburn

IntegrityPorn Nation: Conquering America's #1 Addiction by Michael Leahy

BLOGS

XXX Church www.xxxchurch.com

Covenant Eyes www.covenanteyes.com/blog

Integrity Restored www.integrityrestored.com/resources

DISCUSSION



- ASK:
- Do you know what porn is?
 - Has anything popped up on the computer while you were using it?
 - Why do you think pornography is everywhere?
 - Why do kids at your school look at pornography?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Pornographic images are everywhere today. It's going to be hard for you to go your entire life without being faced with the temptation of pornography, so I wanted to have a meaningful conversation about that today. Pornography is bad for a few reasons. First, pornography is dangerous.

ASK: Can you think of some reasons why pornography could be dangerous?
What do you think are some harmful effects of pornography?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: When God created our bodies, He created us to be sexual beings. You know that God created us to have sex for pleasure and reproduction, but we are only to have sex after we are married. The unique and amazing thing about the way God created us is that when we are getting ready to have sex, our bodies begin to naturally produce a chemical in our brain called endorphins. These endorphins create excitement within us and prepare us for having sex. Pornography is dangerous because when we look at it, our body begins to produce those endorphins and our body prepares for sex. But pornography isn't sex, it's a cheap substitute for it.

Also, the more we look at pornography the less it excites us. So, our minds begin to be desensitized to the images we are looking at and over time you must look at more and more porn to get those same feelings. Of course, the more you look at it, the more likely you are to become addicted to pornography and that addiction can destroy your life. It can become all you think about and all you want to do. Eventually when you become addicted to porn, you no longer want to just look at the images, you feel like you need to act out on what you have been viewing. I want you to know that pornography is very serious and dangerous and the best way to remain healthy is to place boundaries in your life to keep you free from viewing pornography.

ASK: How do you think God feels about pornography?
What are some reasons God wouldn't want you to look at porn?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: God calls pornography a sin. In the Bible, we see the sin called lust.

READ: **Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV)**

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Jesus tells us that if we look at someone lustfully, we commit adultery with them. God knows that pornography is a serious issue and we need to put boundaries in our lives to keep us from lust.

READ: **Matthew 5:29 (NIV)**

"If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."



SAY SOMETHING LIKE: In that passage of Scripture, Jesus is telling us how serious this issue could be. He said that we should gouge out our eye if it is causing us to sin. That's pretty serious and I don't want you to start sticking things in your eyes to keep you from sinning, but I do want you to control what you let your eyes see. We have control over what we let our minds think about and we control that by limiting what we look at with our eyes and what we listen to with our ears.

ASK: What are some ways that you could limit what you allow your eyes to see? *Parents: some answers could be: Limit internet time, place filtering software on the computer, put the computer in a public room, take internet off of mobile phones, don't watch certain television stations, choose wisely who you hang out with, etc.*

What are some ways you could limit what you allow your ears to hear? *Parents: some answers could be: Don't listen to suggestive music, listen to Christian music, limit who you hang out with, etc.*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: I know you have a tough battle ahead of you. It's not easy to stay away from pornography, but I know it is so dangerous and I want to help you remain free from that addiction. So, I want to keep you accountable.

ASK: Will you make a commitment to come to me and talk to me if you come across any material or messages online that make you feel uncomfortable?

What are some ways I can help hold you accountable in your pursuit to keep your mind free from pornography?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Today I want to take some time for us to develop a battle plan for keeping you free from pornography and that means we are going to set boundaries together. Some of these you will agree with and some you might not, but I want you to know I believe this is a serious issue and we need to set up a battle plan.

DEVELOP YOUR FAMILY PLAN

QUESTIONS TO HELP DEVELOP YOUR FAMILY PLAN

Internet-enabled devices:

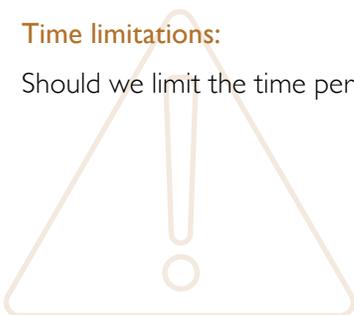
What kind of Internet-enabled devices should be allowed in our home? (ex: cell phones, iPads, gaming devices, etc.)

Location of Internet-enabled devices:

Where should we place our computer or mobile devices when looking at the Internet?

Time limitations:

Should we limit the time per week spent on Internet-enabled devices?



Types of media:

What television channels should we block or allow? What music can we have around our house and what radio stations do we listen to? What apps should we allow on phones and iPads? And, why? (Examples: movies with nudity, gore, vulgarity, etc.)

Video streaming sites:

What video-streaming sites should be allowed, such as Hulu, Netflix, Xfinity, Amazon and Apple? Specify appropriate use of the accounts. (Example: what types of films can be watched, who knows passwords, etc.)

Social media accounts:

What kinds of social media should be allowed? Do we need to be friends on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram? Write down family rules regarding social media. (Example: only be friends with those you know, don't send pictures to strangers, safe-mode enabled, etc.)

Internet filter:

Should we install filtering and accountability software on our computers and mobile devices?

Accountability:

How are we going to remain accountable in regard to media consumption? (Example: when is the next time we talk about this, what do we do if a problem arises, what types of accountability software are we going to use, etc.)

Phone Reminders:

- 2 weeks out: how can I help you keep your eyes pure (or change to help you with your sexual integrity)
- 4 weeks out: ask where is it hardest for you to stay pure?
- 8 weeks out: ask how we can pray for you?

PRAY

Ask God to help your children remain pure in what they see and hear. Ask God to give the strength to stand up to any temptation and ask God for protection over you children's mind. Pray that God would help you also remain pure in your battle against the temptations of pornography.

