

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

More To The Story / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Porn never tells the whole story.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:15 NIV & Proverbs 14:15 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to recognize cultural messages about sex (specifically the messages influenced by pornography and porn-like ads), and begin to think critically about them in light of God's heart for them and His plan for their lives.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders, this is a tricky conversation to start and may make some students feel uncomfortable. Feel free to acknowledge the awkwardness before getting started. At this phase, high-schoolers are likely to have experiences with pornography or sexual content, but oftentimes they are unaware of how they are affected. Instead of simply talking about content in terms of "good" or "bad," steer your conversation toward naming

how they may be affected and helping them decide to self-censor content that may be harmful to their future.

Note to leaders: In both the script and small group questions, we intentionally steer away from connecting porn to shame and the detrimental effect it has on a person's relationship with God. The reason for this is because shame is never a great motivator for long-term behavior change. Most teenagers in church are already feeling shame about their relationship with porn and may already be prone to assuming God is angry at them or disappointed in them. The intention behind this discussion guide is to help leaders guide the discussion toward hope, provide practical steps for thinking critically about porn, and taking steps to change behavior. As you lead this conversation, be mindful of how you talk and the language you use that never sets up a student to feel shame or like there is something wrong with them. Rather, like everyone, they are a victim to the porn industry and that there is hope for them.

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1-10, how awkward is it to talk about porn in church?
2. How would you define porn?
3. What are some ways porn has shown up in other parts of culture? (Think TV, movies, music, ads, TikTok, etc.)
Upperclassmen: What are the messages being communicated in music, movies, TV shows, and TikTok that reflect porn culture?
4. The speaker said everyone is affected by porn-culture. Do you think that is true? Why or why not?
5. Read Ephesians 5:15. What does it look like to be wise living in a culture influenced by porn culture?
6. Were any of the facts the speaker read surprising to you?
7. **For upperclassmen:** How might learning about sex by watching porn hurt your sex life?
8. If someone is a follower of Jesus, why does it matter whether they're affected by porn?
9. As a group, brainstorm some practical ways a person could...
 - a. Refuse to be fooled by the messages porn sends
 - b. Refuse to participate in porn content
 - c. Refuse to face their struggle with porn alone

TRY THIS

Close this week by saying something like this: "The truth is, porn is a business that only exists by getting people to show up again and again. It's meant to be addictive. If you feel like you've been developing a habit and it's difficult to stop, I want you to know that I'm a safe person to talk to, and I'd be happy to help."
