

THE PORN EPIDEMIC

Facts
Stats &
Solutions

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HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT PORN



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Unplugging Pornography: Helping Your Teen Escape the Trap

“The revenues of the top technology companies combined: Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo!, Apple, Netflix, and EarthLink” (“Pornography Statistics,” Family Safe Media, www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html (accessed June 17, 2008).)

“The Barna Group reported that 29 percent of all born-again adults in the United States believe it is morally acceptable to view movies depicting explicit sexual behavior. (“Statistics on Pornography, Sexual Addiction and Online Perpetrators,” Safe Families, www.safefamilies.org/sfStats.php (accessed June 17, 2008).)”

“And these are not oddball, sadistic, perverted teens but everyday, honor-roll, churchgoing, love-their-parents, striving-to-live-for-Jesus teens.”

“About one in three visitors to adult Web sites is female. (Jerry Ropelato, “Internet Pornography Statistics,” Top Ten Reviews, <http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html>) Your daughter is at risk just as your son is.”

“One study showed that a whopping 90 percent of all eight-to sixteen-year-olds had viewed pornography online-most inadvertently while doing homework. (David C. Bisette, “Internet Pornography Statistics: 2003,” HealthyMind.com , <http://healthymind.com/s-porn-stats.html> (accessed June 17, 2008).)”

“Hebrews 12:1 (<http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?g-heb+12:1>) tells us to ‘throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.’”

“How Porn Finds Your Teen”

“This is a problem: if your teen is online, porn will find him or her. For instance, a sophomore in college whom I met on the road last year told me that he had gotten hooked on Internet porn while in high school.”

“During his senior year, he was required to write a term paper on human anatomy for an advanced-placement biology class. One afternoon he was routinely surfing the Web, reading about the study of the human body. Innocently clicking on a link in search of images of the female anatomy, he

suddenly saw a porn site appear. He quickly left the site.”

“But the more he sat in front of his computer, the more he thought about those images. Several minutes later, he found himself going back to check them out again...and again. Thus began a dark journey that lasted most of his senior year of high school.”

“One click. That’s all it takes.”

“I’ve had countless teens tell me that they have received inappropriate spam mail – unsolicited, commercial e-mail that often leads to a Web site, usually pornographic. Sometimes the initial spam messages appear innocuous, such as an invitation to check out a magazine subscription or some cartoons or jokes. Sometimes the advertisements are a bit racier.”

“I got one of these just yesterday on my cell phone. It said, ‘Hey, sexy, I saw your profile online and want to send you a few pics of me. Click this link below and let’s get to know each other.’”

“Whoever sent this spam got my e-mail address from somewhere. It may have been from a program that crawls the Web, searching for e-mail addresses. Or my address may have been sold to a company. Or it may have been from a program that searches for names on the Internet and randomly creates plausible e-mail addresses from the original name, hoping that one in a thousand will hit the mark.”

“Pornography is aggressive. Pornography seeks and destroys. It’s imperative that you know about the fight you are in against pornography.”

“As your teen begins to look at porn consistently, his or her view of the opposite sex will change. Eventually your teen will stop seeing people as God sees them and being seeing them merely as a means by which desires can be fulfilled. Pornography turns other people into objects of lust.”

“If your teen dates, typically it will only be a matter of time before he or she becomes more physical with the dating partner. The fantasy world being downloaded into his or her mind will fight to turn itself into reality by

encouraging your teen to use people to fulfill personal lusts. And as your son or daughter tries to act out the sexual behaviors seen online, the perceived need for self-gratification will damage not only your teen's relationships during the dating years but also his or her relationship with a future mate."

"Furthermore, as your teen dives deeper into the world of porn, his or her character will begin to be eroded, even destroyed. This isn't my idea. Galatians 6:7-8 (<http://www.biblestudytools.com/serarch/?q=ga+6:7-8>) says, 'A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction.'"

First John 4:4 says, 'My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world' (MSG)."

"If your teen is struggling with porn, he or she will need your help Here are eight vital steps to help your teen find freedom from the darkness."

1. **"Get to the Facts** – It is essential that you talk with your teen about porn. If you don't, who will?"

"Many Parents talk about porn and sexuality with their teen but do it only indirectly. I say, don't dance around the issue. Get right to the point. Be specific. Share with your teen the effects porn will have on his or her life."

"Even if you do not suspect your teen is involved in porn, don't wait to have such a talk. Remember, if your teen spends time online, it is inevitable that at some point he or she will be exposed to the raw, filthy, multibillion-dollar-a-year business of porn. If you have caught your teen in the act, at first your teen may deny that the struggle exists or try to minimize its effects on his or her life. It is critical that you explain to your teen that Satan is out to get him or her hooked. What an awesome moment this can be to strengthen your relationship with your teen and help your teen see you as someone

who longs to protect him or her from harm!”

2. **“Love the Teen; Hate the Sin** – As you implement each of the following steps in your fight to defeat this darkness in your teen’s life, you will need to constantly remind your son or daughter that your love has not and will not change. Your teen needs to know that, though you disagree with his or her actions, your ultimate desire is to help your child defeat this addiction and be restored to a pure life. Every day, communicate to your teen that the sin is the thing you hate, not your teen.”
3. **“Realize That a Promise Isn’t Enough** – When your teen has been caught in the act, his or her first response may be to quickly apologize, plead for your forgiveness, and promise to never do it again. And yet, though your teen’s desire to repent may be genuine, it may be only a matter of time before the addiction wins him or her over again.”

“For a teen struggling with porn, a promise to change isn’t enough. You need to help your teen make the promise a reality.”

4. **“Encourage Confession and Submission** – Your son or daughter’s involvement in the world of sex, lies, and porn may be a shock to you. But it is not to God. God is aware of every filthy image that has ever been downloaded into your teens mind. And the best part is that He still loves your teen.”

“Jeremiah

29:11(<http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?q=jer+29:11>) says the Lord has a plan for each of us, a plan to prosper us and to give us hope and a future. The future of this plan often begins with confession” (see 1 John 1:9

(<http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?q=1jo+1:9>)) Lead your teen through a time of confession with God. Encourage your teen to be honest with God as he or she confesses mistakes and receives God’s

forgiveness.”

“Your teen not only needs your consistent involvement, support, and accountability, but he or she also must be willing to submit future choices, actions, and thoughts to God. This could mean that for a while your teen commits to completely avoiding any access to the computer, Internet, TV, or movies, and any form of entertainment that may tempt him or her to check out porn again.”

“God desires to be in complete control of your teen’s life. This can happen only as your teen chooses to submit to God each day. Temptation will be a daily battle for your teen. And so daily submission to God is the key to winning the battle.”

“Of course, you also have to take some practical steps to protect your teen from porn.”

5. **“Take Inventory and Destroy** – Consider the types of media outlets your teen has access to in the home: movies, satellite and cable TV, videos, music, the Internet. Consider what your teen watches and listens to. What influences do these media messages have, or have the potential to have, on your teen?”

“If you suspect or know that your teen is struggling with porn, remove the source from the home immediately. If this is a computer, make sure its location is in a high-traffic area in the home and that your teen never has access to it unless in your presence. If the source is a TV, it must go. If the source is magazines, they must go. No questions, no rationalizing – whatever it is, it must go!”

“This sounds strong, but remember, this is war. You cannot expect to defeat the enemy if the enemy still has access to your home. Of course, this purging of your home will not eliminate access to all the porn in the world. But by removing the immediate sources, you will be sending a strong message to your teen that you are prepared to take extreme measures to break the bondage in which he or she is living.

SEE ALSO: Flood of Pornography Threatening Marriages, the Church
(<https://www.crosswalk.com/family/marriage/flood-of-pornography-threatening-marriages-the-church-11547518.html>)

6. **“Develop a Strategy for the Future** – “It is unrealistic to think that just because you remove sources of temptation from the home, your teen will never again be tempted to use porn. So it’s important for you to develop a strategy for your teen, while both inside and outside the home, to help him or her avoid repeating an addictive behavior.”

“Because each teen’s situation, lifestyle, and personality is unique, there is no one strategy that will work for everyone. I recommend that you take some time with your spouse (if married) and outline a game plan before discussing it with your teen. That game plan should include, but not be limited to, the following:”

“Establishing a routine. Your teen needs to see the importance of a disciplined, routine schedule. The key here is not to isolate your teen from his daily activities, hobbies, and interests completely. But setting boundaries on what he or she can do will help your teen develop a greater sense of security.”

“Work to help your teen’s schedule stay full enough so that his or her mind remains occupied. Chores, sports, a part-time job, volunteering, and more can be helpful outlets.”

“Approving friendships. One teen told me that his mom and dad found out he was checking out porn at home, so they removed the computer from his room. Then he started checking it out at his best friend’s house.”

“Remember, your teen’s friends play a huge role in his or her decision making. Choosing friends who are in line with God’s will for your teen’s life is a critical step to overcoming the temptations to check out porn. First Corinthians 15:33 says, ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’”

“It is essential that your teen choose friends that push him or her toward God rather than ones that pull him or her away. Let your teen know that you will have debriefings about who your teen’s friends are and where he or she spends time.”

“Killing the lies. Satan often wins the porn war when he wins the war in your teen’s mind. Communicate to your teen that Satan will work to sell him or her such lies as these:

- “What’s the big deal? It’s just a naked picture. Besides, looking at porn is a lot better than sleeping with someone.”
- “I’m so good in every other area of life. This is just my one issue.”
- “No one is going to know. And what harm will really come from it?”
- “I deserve this. I’ve had a really tough week.”

“Communicating with your teen. If your teen has been checking out porn for some time, then it is highly probable that he or she will experience setbacks in separating from this darkness. The evil forces will pull out all their weapons to try to drive harmful desires deeper into your teen’s mind. The best way to control these moments is to have consistent times of communication with your teen. Regularly ask questions such as these:

- “How are you feeling about your struggle?”
- “Have you had any setbacks?”
- “What’s going on in your head?”

“Let your teen see that you are serious about fighting with humor her against the Enemy in this area, no matter how long it takes.”

“Establishing goals. Develop a set of goals your teen strives to achieve. As he or she proves trustworthy, the teen will then be

granted more freedom. Use this as an encouragement to help your teen see progress.”

7. **“Get Your Teen into the Word.** A key to killing the addiction to porn in the heart and mind of your teen rests in the teen’s own commitment to consistently spend time in God’s Word.”

“Help your teen find Scripture verses to memorize, carry in his or her wallet, or hang on a mirror or locker that will help your teen in a crisis moment. Relying on Scripture when faced with a temptation is exactly what Jesus did when He was tempted (see Matthew 4).”

“Continually encourage your teen to spend time with God, praying and reading the Bible (<http://www.biblestudytools.com/>).

8. **“Pray Like Crazy** – The greatest strategy that you can implement to protect your teen from Satan’s lies about pornography (and everything else the Enemy throws at him or her) is prayer (<http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/>).”

“Prayer is your source of strength when the fight takes you into the eleventh round. Prayer is your greatest weapon against Satan’s ploys to get your teen to take a bit of the forbidden fruit. Prayer is the greatest ‘kaboom’ you have against the Enemy. I don’t call prayer the Ultimate Power Stance for mothering.”

(Jeffrey Dean, Author, The Fight of Your Life, Crosswalk, March 5, 2009, “Unplugging Pornography: Helping Your Teen Escape the Trap”, <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/unplugging-pornography-helping-your-teen-escape-the-trap-11600384.html>)

This article is an adapted excerpt from Jeffrey Dean's book, [The Fight of Your Life](#) (Multnomah, 2009) *Used with permission. All rights reserved.*

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Talking to Your Kids about Pornography – Tip Sheet

“It is natural for adolescents to be curious about sex: MediaSmarts’ research suggests that one in ten grades 7-11 students use the Internet to look for information about sexuality. Forty percent of boys look for pornography online, with 28% looking for it daily or weekly. The problem with pornography is that it is an unhealthy response to a healthy concern.”

- **“Talk to your kids about sex from a very early age.** Kids are being exposed to sexual images in various media so you need to establish an open and honest dialogue with them so they will come to you with their questions.”
- **“Have an ongoing dialogue:** The best approach for tweens and teens is to acknowledge that their interest in relationships and sex is normal, and help them develop the critical thinking skills they need to make good online decisions.”
- **“Discuss the sexual messages in various media.** Help your kids understand the harmful effects of images that degrade and exploit women or girls, or that pressure boys to conform to a male-gendered model centered on sexual attractiveness and prowess.”
- **“Direct your kids to good-quality information:** If the only information your kids are receiving about sexuality is from porn sites, you have a problem. There are a lot of great websites that provide information for youth on sexuality and health, such as Sexualityandu.ca, from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada. Explore with them the differences between normal, healthy sexual expression and the exploitive activity that is so prevalent online.”
- **“Establish clear rules about visiting pornographic sites:** MediaSmarts’ research shows that if there is a rule in the house about what kinds of sites are appropriate to visit, kids are less likely to look for porn and those that do, do it less often. (Keep in mind that computer-savvy kids know how to erase their Internet tracks: open, honest communication is always preferable to invading their privacy.)”

(Media Smarts, Site accessed January, 10, 2018,
[http://mediasmarts.ca/sites/mediasmarts/files/pdfs/tipsheet/TipSheet %20Talking Kids
About Pornography 0.pdf](http://mediasmarts.ca/sites/mediasmarts/files/pdfs/tipsheet/TipSheet_%20Talking_Kids_About_Pornography_0.pdf))

CPYU'S Digital Kids Initiative – Factsheet – Children and Pornography

- “93% of boys and 62% of girls are exposed to Internet pornography before the age of 18”
- “The average age of first exposure to Internet pornography is 11”
- “70% of boys have spent more than 20 consecutive minutes looking at online pornography on a least one occasion. 35% of boys have done this on more than ten occasions.”
- “23% of girls have spent more than 30 consecutive minutes looking at online pornography on at least one occasion. 14% have done this on more than one occasion.”
- “34% of Internet users have received unwanted exposure to sexual material”
- “Only 3% of boys and 17% of girls have never seen Internet pornography”
- “One poll indicates that 50% of evangelical Christian men and 20% of evangelical Christian women are addicted to pornography”

“What is Pornography?”

“The word ‘Pornography’ is rooted in the Greek word porneia, which means to practice prostitution, sexual immorality, or fornication. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul frequently used the word in reference to any kind of sinful and illegitimate sexual activity.”

“Here are two very helpful definitions of ‘Pornography’ written from a biblical perspective:

“Pornography is anything we use for sexual titillation, gratification or escape – whether it was intended for that purpose or not.” – Tim Chester, Closing the Window: Steps to Living Porn Free (Intervarsity Press, 2010)

“Pornography is anything that the heart uses to find sexual expression outside of God’s intended design for relational intimacy. It is anything that tempts or corrupts the human heart into desiring sexual pleasure in sinful ways.” – “Living in a ‘Porn is the Norm’ Culture” (Harvestusa.org)

“What are the effects of Pornography on Children and Teens?”

- “An exaggerated perception of sexual activity in society...the belief that ‘everyone’s doing it’ and ‘this must be normal’”
- “The abandonment of the hope of remaining sexually monogamous”
- “Belief that sexual promiscuity is natural and normal”
- “Belief that sexual abstinence and sexual inactivity are abnormal and unhealthy”
- “Belief that marriage is sexually confining”
- “A lack of attraction to family and child-rearing”
- “Negative and/or traumatic emotional responses”
- “Earlier onset of first sexual intercourse”
- “The commodification of sex and the sexual objectification of persons”
- “Increased acceptance of sexual perversions (bestiality, group sex, bondage, etc.) as normal”

“When You Discover Your Child Has Accessed Pornography...”

1. “Control your anger.”
2. “Go after their heart, not their behavior.”
3. “Keep a discussion going about biblical sexuality.”
4. “Examine your own heart. Are you living God’s design for your own sexuality?”
5. “Block the doors. Take steps to restrict access and choices, while engaging them in ongoing accountability.”
6. “Don’t let up or give up. Shepherd them forward in their spiritual lives with the goal of heart change.”
7. “Evaluate whether or not outside counseling is necessary or beneficial.”

*“My kids have looked at porn! What do I do now?” –
Harvestusa.org”*

(CPYU’S Digital Kids Initiative, Factsheet Children and Pornography, Site Accessed January 10, 2018, https://digitalkidsinitiative.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Children_and_Pornography_Factsheet-Revised-August-2014.pdf)

Talking to your 8-12 year old about pornography

“An Ongoing Conversation – Having these conversations can be difficult. You may feel uncomfortable or embarrassed, or don’t know what to tell your child. Unfortunately, if you avoid the topic, your child might seek information from less reliable sources, like the internet. Evidence indicates that children as young as 9 are being exposed to images and videos that are pornographic.”

“Four tips for how you can start having these conversations with your pre-teen”

1. **“Build Trust:** It is almost impossible to have influence when there is not trust. Investing time in our relationship with your child helps them feel loved and accepted. Discussions about sexual matters will be more effective when you have a trusting relationship with your child.”
2. **“Prepare:** Work out what you want to say and how you want to say it. Sometimes discussions about sexual topics can be more difficult for parents than for children. Plan ahead and make a discussion outline for what you want to talk about.”
3. **“Take the time:** These discussions are best held in a one-on-one environment. Go somewhere together – perhaps for a walk, or a drive and make sure your child feels at ease. Being in a neutral environment can make things more comfortable for both parent and child.”
4. **“Ask lots of questions:** Rather than lecture, try to ask questions. This will help avoid your child tuning out or becoming defensive. If you know that your child has been exposed to (or is viewing) pornography, it is best to let them know this, rather than getting mad at them for lying. It is far better to say, ‘When I found you looking at pornography the other night...’ rather than, ‘Have you seen pornography?’”

“Kicking it off – The following questions are a great way to get a discussion going. Tailor the discussion based on your knowledge of your child and their level of maturity and development.”

“What to say? Begin by asking if it is ok to have a chat about one of those awkward topics. Let them know you have read some things recently that got you thinking, and you’d like your child’s opinion. After they have agreed to talk with you try these discussion starters.”

- **“Ask:** What do you know about pornography?”

- **“Ask:** Do any of the kids at school ever talk about it? What do they say?
- **“Ask:** Have you ever seen it? If they answer yes, ask, ‘Did someone show it to you? Or did you find it yourself?’ Reassure your child they are not in trouble. Try to find out what you can about how they found it and why they were searching for it.”

“If they have seen it, ask: ‘When you saw it, how did it make you feel?’ Discuss those feelings. Children at this age may feel ‘yucky’ – even violated – but they may also feel curious or scared.”

- **“Explain:** Let them know that pornography teaches attitudes towards sex, and sexual behaviors which are often unhealthy. Ask them, ‘Even though it’s really uncomfortable, can you tell me what you have seen?’ You may wish to discuss some of the content portrayed in pornographic material (such as lack of respect and consent, violence, and dangerous sexual practices) to help them understand why you are concerned about them viewing it.”
- **“Ask:** ‘What do you think is the best thing to do if someone tries to show you pornography?’ Let your child suggest some options. Discourage them from seeking it to, or looking at it if someone does show it to them.”

“Work with your child to find ways to protect against pornography exposure. You might talk about your ‘house rules’, such as not deliberately visiting these sites, avoiding searches with potentially dangerous keywords, using devices in open areas at home and not behind closed doors, being offline by a particular time of night, and any other ideas they can think of. You might want to update ‘safe search’ on all devices and let your child know if you plan to install device-level filters that can block adult content.”

- **“Reassure:** Let them know it’s always ok to talk with you if they have questions.”

“Avoiding TMI: We want to avoid the issue of too-much-information (TMI), but we should also be sure to respond to our child’s curiosity with honesty and openness. Check if your child has any other questions or if you have explained things enough for them. “

“Depending on your child’s questions and maturity, you may wish to discuss issues related to ‘consent’, ‘intimacy in close relationships’, and ‘respect’. Teach them that pornography usually fails to teach these things. Emphasize that we should always have permission (consent) to touch, hug, or kiss another person. Help them understand that if someone says ‘no’, they should listen (which teaches respect).”

“No one wants to have a pornography discussion with their children. But to protect and prepare them, the conversation is essential. Keep it short. Be honest. Try to make it part of an ongoing and open discussion about sexuality and sexual development.”

“If you have children under 8 years of age, see here (<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/online-risks/online-pornography/how>) for more ideas. And for teenagers, try this guidance (<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/online-risks/online-pornography/talking%20to%20teens%20about%20pornography>)

(iParent, Site Accessed January 10, 2018, “Talking to your 8-12 year old about pornography”, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/online-risks/online-pornography/talking-to-your-8-to-12-year-old-about-pornography>)

6 Strategies for when your child accidentally finds online pornography

“Here are some handy tips for parents of children under the age of 12 who unintentionally find pornography.”

“First Steps”

1. “Stay calm – Try to approach the situation calmly. Clear and helpful conversations about sex, intimacy, and relationships require trust. If you are upset or angry, your child may feel like they can’t come to you about other concerns in the future.”

“It’s great that you are now aware of what has happened. If your child has come to you about seeing something, thank them for being brave enough to let you know and reassure them that you will sort it out together.”

“Encourage your child to talk to you anytime about any questions they have about what they come across online. Remember, they may be upset about finding pornography and it is important to be supportive and to acknowledge how upsetting it can be to see this type of content.”

2. “Just listen – If your child has accidentally stumbled upon explicit content, ask them to fill you in on the details so you can help manage the situation. For example, find out how they found it, where it happened, who (if anyone) showed it to them and how they felt when they saw it. This is a chance to understand what happened and how you can help your child avoid a repeat experience.”

“Remember, understand don’t reprimand.”

3. “Reassure your child they are not in trouble – Punishing children for accidentally doing things – even bad things – might strain relationships, and damage trust between you and your child. This can drive unwanted behavior underground or make your child reluctant to approach you in the future. Try not to remove the child’s device or online access, as they will see it as punishment.”

“Follow-Up Talk”

“It may be tempting to have a big lecture right there on the spot but sometimes that’s not the best option. Take some time to plan your approach to the topic. You’ll have a better outcome if everyone stays calm.”

4. “Talk about how they felt – It is important to talk with your child about how the content made them feel. This makes the conversation less confronting and allows them to talk more openly about their experience. Does your child feel good, bad, safe, scared, uncomfortable, curious, repulsed or something else? Any or all of these feelings are normal reactions.”
5. “Have ‘the talk’ – Depending on your family values and the maturity level of your child, you may wish to talk about what sex is. Discussions about love and intimacy are important, as are discussions about boundaries, appropriate age and timing for intimacy, and other personal values. Your child’s teacher may be a good source for finding age-appropriate materials on this topic.”
6. “Problem-solve together – Ask whether they think it is a good idea to look for those kinds of things on the internet again. **(Hint...it’s not).**”

“Encourage them to think of ways to stay safe. Suggestions could include; avoiding using keywords that could lead to similar content, installing parental controls on devices, keeping devices in public places, especially for younger children.”

“It is crucial to have regular conversations with your child about what they are viewing online to help them have a positive and safe online experiences.”

“TOP TIPS”

- ✓ “Stay Calm”
- ✓ “Listen”
- ✓ “Reassure (avoid punishment)”
- ✓ “Talk about it”

- ✓ “Have ‘the talk’”
- ✓ “Problem solve together to keep your child safe”

(iParent, Site Accessed January 11, 2018, “6 Strategies for when your child accidentally finds online pornography”, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/online-risks/online-pornography/6-strategies-for-when-your-child-accidentally-finds-online-pornography>)

When someone shows your child pornography: at home, school or play

“The way you respond to the situation may change a little, depending on where the exposure to pornography occurs.”

“Exposure at home”

1. “Siblings and friends – Some children may have been introduced to pornography by siblings or friends. In this situation, there are a number of strategies you can use:
 - “Discuss the issue with all siblings in age-appropriate ways, and ensure everyone agrees to play by the same rules.”
 - “Install parental controls (/education-resources/iparent/online-safeguards) on computers or devices, such as filter software, or safe search mode to reduce the chance of finding explicit material. Inform your child the reasons for this approach.”
 - “Let all friends know that devices stay in public areas of your home.”
 - “Set some ‘house rules’. For example, ‘in our house we don’t share inappropriate images’”.
2. “Adults – Sometimes children may come across pornography used by parents in the household. If this situation applies, try the following steps:
 - “Password-protect your devices to restrict access.”

- “Delete browser histories so children cannot accidentally stumble on what a parent viewed recently.”
- “Be as discreet as possible, to avoid accidental exposure.”

“Practical Steps”

“You can take some simple practical steps if your child has come across pornography at home:

- “Talk about where is and is not okay to use computers or devices. In an ideal situation, your child should only use them in public areas of the home. Bedrooms, a closed-study, or other private spaces should be device no-go zones for younger children.”
- “Set a Wi-Fi curfew. Determine a reasonable time to shut off the Wi-Fi, and then do so consistently each night.”
- “Adjust home modems, device settings and browsers to ensure ‘safe search’ is on.”
- “Have regular conversation with our child about content they are engaging with. This may lead to some great conversations about topics important to your child. Open lines of communication can help build trust in your relationship, and may reduce the need to monitor your child’s browser history or spy on them.”

“Be aware that the more controlling your interventions are, the sneakier your child may be.”

“Exposure at School”

“Many schools have firewalls and other security measures to protect children from explicit content. However, some children find ways around these measures. Others simply use their own devices and internet access to circumvent the school’s restrictions.”

“Consider the following steps when children are exposed to pornography at school.”

1. “Who to tell”

- “The school principal should be advised of the exposure, and will want information about who was involved, what was seen, and how it happened.”
- “In some (more serious) instances, the school counsellor or welfare officer might be informed and included in working through the incident.”

2. “Talking to the school”

- “Ask the school how they will handle the situation. This is a good time to ask about school policy surrounding these issues.”
- “Some schools may be open to interventions, class/student discussion groups, and further education about pornography within the school.”
- “Expect the school will update its filters, and increase security around technology to the extent that it is practical.”
- “Expect the school will review its policies related to student use of personal screens, such as in playgrounds, classrooms, libraries, or on public transport travelling to and from school.”

3. “Talking to your child”

“If your child is shown pornography by peers or older students, have a chat to them about things like:

- “Peer pressure.”
- “Being willing to say ‘no’ and stand out from the crowd.”
- “‘Group-think’ and what it means to be able to think differently to all of the other children.”

“Exposure at Play”

“When your child is exposed to pornographic content in the home of a family member, friend, or neighbor (or perhaps at an extra-curricular

activity), there are a number of actions you can take.

1. “Inform the responsible adult”

- “Talk to the leader of the group, the team coach, the teacher, or the relevant responsible adult about who was involved, what was seen, and how it happened. Organizations should have policies and procedures in place to deal with all types of notifications.”

2. “Work out the best way to prevent it from happening again”

- “Like schools, organizations may be required to review their policies about supervision, participation, online security, and other technology decisions to protect children.”
- “If the viewing occurred in a private home, talk to the relevant responsible adults about ways to better ensure the safety of children in their care. This type of conversation needs to be carried out sensitively, but clearly. You might say, ‘Hi, just so you know, our child does not have access to adult content at home and I’m concerned my child may have seen inappropriate content at your house. Can we have a chat about how access can be limited when they visit your place?’”

(iParent, Site Accessed January 11, 2018, “When someone shows your child pornography: at home, school or play”, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/online-risks/online-pornography/when-someone-shows-your-child-pornography>)

Talking to teens about pornography

“Maintaining trust between you and your teen is vital when discussing sensitive topics like pornography. When talking with your teen, remember that attempts to control their thinking or behavior could result in them closing up and becoming defensive. They may ignore you, and possibly

even do the opposite of what you suggest. The ‘My house, my rules’ dialogue might squash trust.”

“Use the following conversation tips to get the ball rolling with your teen.”

“Ask: I want to talk with you about one of those awkward topics. Is that ok? (they rarely say ‘no’, but if they do, respect that, and then set up a time where you can talk.)”

“Ask: Are kids at school looking at pornography? Do they talk about it?”

“Ask: Have you ever seen it? If they answer yes, ask, ‘Did someone show it to you? Or did you find it yourself?’ If they found it themselves, find out what made them seek it and ask how it made them feel. Focus more on feelings and less on what they actually saw.”

“Reassure your them they are not in trouble, and then find out what you can about the circumstances. Also note that if you know they have been exposed to (or are viewing) pornography, it is best to tell them what you know rather than getting mad at them for lying. Any conversation is likely to be ineffective if you are upset and they are defensive.”

“Describe: If you think your teen has been viewing pornography regularly, help them understand their response to it. You could explain how the brain releases chemicals that make us feel good if we see something we like. Because we like how the chemical reaction in our brain feels, we might keep repeating the behavior.”

“Ask: Have you seen your friends talking about wanting to copy things they have seen online?”

“You might also ask whether they have seen others being affected by viewing pornography. Some people experience lowered self-esteem, or have unhealthy relationships with their boy/girlfriend as a result of wanting to have ‘porn-inspired’ experiences.”

“Discourage them from viewing it. You may wish to help their understanding by using resources that focus on relationships

recommended by their teacher or school counsellor.”

“**Ask** your teen how they feel about your request that they avoid viewing pornography, and then work together to find ways to reduce the chance of seeing explicit content online. Options might include asking them to avoid certain sites that are known to contain pornographic content, avoiding keywords in searches that might lead to explicit material, and avoiding certain searches on google images. Reduce temptation by, as far as practicable, using devices in open areas at home and keeping doors open.”

“You might wish to use technology to help restrict access, such as ensuring that safe-search options are selected on devices, setting rules for screen time and time of use and installing parental controls that can block access to adult sites. If you want to do this, talk to your teen first so that you maintain open lines of communication and trust.”

“**Reassure:** Let them know it’s always ok to talk with you if they have questions or concerns.”

“**Lessons from Pornography vs. Real Life**”

“What we see in pornography rarely represents what we’d like to experience in real life. The following topics can provide food for thought for our teen.”

“Consent, respect and safety: Talk to your teen about the importance of always having permission to touch, hug, or kiss another person. Pornography often provides graphic illustrations that teach the opposite. In short, pornography is not real life.”

“Help them understand that if someone says ‘no’, they should respect that decision. And if your child says ‘no’, they should make sure their ‘no’ is heard and not argued with as a ‘perhaps’ or a ‘yes’. Also let them know that consent can be removed at any time, so it is ok to say ‘no’ after saying ‘yes’ earlier.”

“Teach them that disrespect, violence and abuse are not ok, and that they

are responsible for their own safety and being respectful towards others.”

“Pornography can sometimes portray violence and unrealistic notions of sexual relationships. It may teach that group sex and anal sex is what everyone wants. Important lessons about sexual safety (such as using condoms) are often absent. Help teens recognize that what they see in pornography is rarely safe, and intentionally pushes limits to offer increased arousal to viewers.”

“Intimacy in close relationships”

“Physical relationships are usually shared with someone special to us. Intimacy is about more than physical closeness. It is about emotional closeness, and building trust. These factors are often missing in pornographic images and video material. Talk to your teen about what this means for them and in their relationships.”

“Don’t be pressured”

“Explain that the actors appearing in pornography are being paid to show they are enjoying the sex. If our teens are in an intimate relationship, they should only do what they feel comfortable doing and avoid being pressured to do otherwise.”

“Body image”

“Explain that many actors in pornographic images and films have surgically ‘enhanced’ bodies, such as breasts, vaginas, and penises. Drugs are sometimes used to maintain erections for abnormally long durations. Most people do not look like the actors in explicit videos, pictures or magazines.”

“Performance”

“Talk to your teen about the performance of actors. They are doing what they do for money. There are multiple takes of scenes and storylines are contrived. Most pornography is nothing more than fiction and make believe.”

“Wrapping it up”

“Your conversation with younger teens will typically conclude with you asking your teen to avoid pornography, and discussing ways to ensure they do so.”

“Conversations with older teens are best if they are less about telling them what to do, and more focused on deferring to them. Sometimes, the harder you push, the more they might resist.”

“Consider asking:

- “Where do you stand on viewing pornography?”
- “Has this discussion changed the way you see it?”

“It is a good idea to clearly set out your expectations and rules for the home. Reinforce that if they do see something they don’t understand, they can come and ask you about it – no topic is off limits.”

“Conversations around healthy sexuality set your teen up for more positive relationships, greater relationship satisfaction, and higher levels of wellbeing. If we are not talking with our teens about sex (and pornography), they may seek information from friends or the internet – and they may get the wrong information. They are curious. They do want to know.”

(iParent, Site Accessed January 12, 2018, “Talking to teens about pornography”, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/online-risks/online-pornography/talking-to-teens-about-pornography>)

What Happens When Children Watch Porn

“They honestly don’t fully understand that what they’re seeing isn’t typical and often doesn’t translate to real life, says Dr. Stefanie Carnes, PhD.”

“Their brains are getting wired from the start to respond to a level of sexual

intensity and novelty that cannot be matched in a healthy intimate relationship, says Todd Love, PsyD, JD, LPC.”

“Concern that porn can influence young minds is not just theoretical. Research suggests that early exposure to porn can affect later relationships and behavior. In a 2011 study of 200 adolescent males, researchers in Sweden found that 18-year-olds who view porn daily tend to gravitate toward extreme and illegal types of porn and try to act out porn in their relationships. IN addition, a 2014 study of 23 low-income minority youth found that the kids frequently watched pornography in school and attempted to re-enact the pornographic scenes in their dating relationships.”

“Porn exposure and use is not confined to boys. ‘Young girls are seeing it, too,’ says Dr. Carnes, ‘and it’s very confusing for them.’ Research supports this. In a 2014 study of 1,132 adolescents in the journal Pediatrics, Dutch researchers found that male and female adolescents who view online pornography are more likely to develop a negative body image and negative sexual self-perception. In addition, a 2007 study of 745 Dutch adolescents found that increased exposure to porn increased the likelihood that the user, whether male or female, would view women as sex objects. ‘Porn sends the message to young girls that they have to look perfect and be willing to do anything,’ Carnes says. ‘It also sets unrealistic standards of size and performance for boys and men.’”

“Porn and Erectile Dysfunction”

“Some go so far as to say that early compulsive porn use can cause sexual problems as an adult. While the jury is still out on that, one man is a believer. Gabe Deem grew up in Texas as part of a loving family with no history of addiction or trauma. He recalls that he was a normal kid who loved music an sports. He first saw porn at age 8 and began masturbating to it shortly afterward. By 10, he was staying up until 3 or 4 a.m. watching soft-core porn on cable, and by age 12, when his family got high-speed Internet, he became consumed by hard-core porn.”

“When the kids in his high school were issued laptops, they quickly figured out how to watch porn in class. “The teacher would be in front of the class and I’d be in the back, watching porn with my friends,’ he recalls. ‘I wish I could go back and slap myself.’ He lost motivation to do sports and other things and quickly grew to view girls and women as sex objects.”

“By the time he was in his early 20s, Deem was unable to maintain an erection without the aid of porn. Suspecting that his compulsive porn use was the culprit, he spent a year ‘rebooting,’ that is, going off all porn, and recovered. He has since become a man on mission. He is a national speaker on porn use among kids and young adults, and in March 2014, the 27-year-old personal trainer and teen mentor launched RebootNation.org to help compulsive porn users and partners. The site started with five members and has since grown to more than 4,000 active members and countless ‘lurkers,’ many of whom are teens and young adults who believe they have developed a porn addiction and are experiencing related sexual dysfunction. Deem states, ‘I’ve seen a growing number of members in the teen section who are complaining of porn-induced ED [erectile dysfunction].”

“How to Talk to Your Kids about Porn”

“In 2015, parents no longer really have a choice about whether or not to discuss sex and intimacy with their children. Like it or not, kids are getting their sexual education online via porn, Weiss says. ‘Parents today must educate their children, not only about how our physical parts work, about pregnancy, disease and abuse, but also about porn. It is from parents that kids will learn that what they see online is not day-to-day life and is not the stuff of love, intimacy and connection,’ says Weiss. ‘They need to hear from their parents, not in school and not on the street, so to speak, that porn is not geared toward them as it is adult entertainment.”

“The most important thing to convey, says Weiss, is that being curious about sex and interested in it is entirely normal and nothing to be ashamed about. ‘If you send the message that looking at porn is somehow shameful, that message can get internalized,’ he says. ‘It’s far better to remind your

child that porn is not real life and that one day they'll learn that adult love, intimacy and meaningful connection with another person is a lot more rewarding than anything they might see in the virtual world.' He also has a tip for parents who see their kids looking at porn. 'Your message will get lost if you overreact,' he says. 'Take time to reflect, get feedback and then talk to your kids from a calm and non-reactive place.'"

(Janet Cromley, Porn Addiction 4, July 31, 2015, "What Happens When Children Watch Porn", <https://www.addiction.com/12159/what-happens-when-children-watch-porn/>)

"About Janet Cromley: Janet Cromley, MS, is a writer and editor based in Long Beach, California. Her journalism career includes nearly two decades at the Los Angeles Times, where she wrote for the Health and Outdoors sections, and served as deputy editor of the paper's national edition. She holds a master's degree in counseling psychology."

5 Things All Parents Should Know About Porn

"Here are the five things parents need to know about talking with kids about pornography."

1) First, it's everywhere. It's the subject of a recent cover story in TIME magazine. It's one click away on the Disney webpage. It's available on every cellular device. Including your children's devices. And the new Google Glasses...? Since 2014, the porn industry has been considering how to stay at the forefront of this wave of technology.

2) Second, a generation ago, porn was different. Not only was access different; what used to be considered hard-core a generation or two ago is now the norm in mainstream media. Violence and aggression – particularly against women – is now standard. Let's face it: it's not your father's Playboy magazine kids are accessing today.

3) Third, porn is universally concerning because it affects, even damages children's sense of their own sexuality and healthy relationships. Researchers have found that repeated exposure to porn impacts children's

brain development and function. And, less you forget let me remind you: any image that has been seen – intentionally or not – cannot be “un-seen”.

4) Fourth, curiosity about sex is natural and normal. As parents, it is our responsibility to provide sex-positive, respectful values about sexuality for our kids. Having open conversations about porn can help diffuse stress related to any one “big talk;” it also creates parent-child connectedness. Experts and public figures recommend talking openly with your kids to minimize confusion, and more importantly, shame.

5) And finally, having open conversations sometimes means that parents need to initiate the conversations. One good way to do this is by using teachable moments – situations that arise in everyday life. Perhaps your child spends a lot of time on the internet. Or maybe you have overheard him/her with peers talking about a potentially explicit topic. There are myriad pornography and book resources available to help guide you on broaching the subject. For tips and resources on how to talk with kids of all ages about porn click [here](#) and [here](#).

Teaching kids about sexuality gives them the skills and framework to become confident young people and adults. Ultimately, I see this kind of conversation as teaching our children how to value healthy bodies and healthy minds, and giving them the tools to make healthy choices.

(Nicole Monastersky Maderas, Talk with Your Kids, Site Accessed January 12, 2108, “5 Things All Parents Should Know About Porn”, <https://www.talkwithyourkids.org/lets-talk-about/5-things-all-parents-should-know-about-porn.html>)

About the Author: “Nicole Monastersky Maderas, Alameda County Project Consultant, is dedicated to promoting access to and information about sexual and reproductive health. Through previous work at Pharmacy Access Partnership, a center of the nonprofit Pacific Institute for Women’s Health, Nicole provided educational opportunities to pharmacists and community-based organizations about the clinical and psycho-social aspects of women’s health and created a new initiative to promote pharmacy environments to meet the needs of adolescents. She has worked with regional, state and national partner organizations to seek changes in laws and regulations to improve access to birth control products, and conducted research on consumers’ and health care professionals’ opinions about contraceptive access. Nicole worked with MEXFAM,

Mexico's foundation for family planning, evaluating the family planning services provided in clinics throughout the country. She is a member of the Advisory Council for the California Adolescent Health Collaborative. Nicole received her MPH from UCLA. She lives in the East Bay with her husband and two young daughters."

How to Talk to Kids about Porn: Research Reveals 5 Obstacles to Overcome

"We don't seem to know how to talk to kids about porn"

"A case study of 33 different families reveals that even parents who know they should talk to their middle-schoolers about pornography are not having those conversations. So why is this?"

"It turns out that there are **five obstacle parents need to overcome** in order to have successful talks on porn. Simply put, most parent feel stuck! Let's look closely at these obstacles and see if we can't find a solution to each one."

"5 obstacles parents need to overcome for successful talks on porn"

"Obstacle #1: Failing to understand the scope of the problem"

"According to Zurcher's study, parents recognize that pornography is more accessible and more widely accepted in our society than ever before. Yet, there's a disconnect. Consider these facts:

- "Pornography can be harder for kids to avoid than it is to find"
- "Nearly all children will be exposed before they enter high school"
- "1 in 10 visitors to porn sites are under the age of 10"
- "Peer pressure to use porn in middle school can be extremely high"
- "Even good kids will be curious about pornography"

"Parents also need to be aware that today's porn goes far beyond centerfold-type imagery. Themes may include group sex, same sex, incest, bestiality and more. In fact, 88% of the most watched porn scenes contain

either physical or verbal abuse of women.”

“When children are repeatedly exposed to violent and degrading explicit material they can struggle to develop healthy views of sexuality and self-image.”

“Solution: As parents take steps to better understand the scope of porn’s impact on kids they will feel a greater urgency to start early and have ongoing conversations with children about the harms of pornography”

“Obstacle #2: Knowing how to define pornography”

“Try this experiment. Put 20 people in a room. Then ask them to explain what pornography is. My guess is that you will get 20 different answers.”

“If adults struggle to define pornography, imagine how tricky it is for kids! Sex-saturated media comes at them daily from every direction. Kids need parents who will give them an age-appropriate way to recognize pornography. Dr. Jill Manning gives this definition (What the Big Deal about Pornography: A Guide for the Internet Generation, p. 2):”

“Pornography is material specifically designed to arouse sexual feelings in people by depicting nudity, sexual behavior, or any type of sexual information.”

“But this definition may be a little too much for a young child.”

“In *Good Pictures Bad Pictures*, a conversation between a mother and son starts like this, ‘Pornography means pictures, videos, or even cartoons of people with little or no clothes on.’ To learn more ideas on how to continue this conversation read, *How to Define Pornography for a Seven-Year Old*.”

“Solution: When parents have a clear definition of pornography they know where to start the conversation with their children. When children have a clear definition of pornography they are better prepared to reject it when exposed.”

“Obstacle #3: Getting over parental fears”

“We get it! Starting that conversation can feel like the biggest obstacle of all. Even if you grew up in a home with open communication, we bet your parents didn’t talk with you about the harms of pornography! We are the first generation that must tackle this subject straight on with our kids. That can seem like a daunting task.”

“Zurcher’s research reveals that moms, even more than dads, have the most difficulty bringing up this subject with their kids. Descriptors like, ‘dread, uncomfortable, trepidation, horrible and guilt’, were used by parents when thinking about how to talk to kids about porn.”

“For many, the word itself is difficult to say. Try it now – pornography. That’s not so bad, is it?”

“Keep in mind that the greatest resource to combat the negative effects of pornography is open communication between parents and child. Each time you revisit the subject it will get easier. It will get better. If you’re still squeamish, we suggest you practice this conversation with a friend first.”

“When you do talk one-on-one with your children, it’s OK to be upfront about your insecurities. They will see how brave you are and want to listen all the more. It may surprise you how relieved they are that you are willing to bring it up.”

“**Solution:** When parents are willing to bring up tough subjects like pornography at home, kids know they have a safe place to talk about important things. When parents are honest about their insecurities children feel more confident to open up about their own.”

“**Obstacle #4: Realize that EVERY child (not just everyone else’s) is vulnerable**

“During the case study interviews, one dad noted that while many parents recognize that porn use among kids is on the rise, they don’t necessarily see these societal trends as a threat to their own family. They justify, *‘My kid’s a good kid...it’s not in my home.’*”

“The problem with this kind of rationalizing is it creates an environment where countless *good kids* are being exposed to pornography and have not strategy or coping mechanism to deal with it.”

“If a child has *not* been coached to recognize and reject pornography, the common response is to continue looking and keep it a secret. This is true even when the content causes the child distress or anxiety. Remember, without a clear definition in mind a child may not know how to identify what they see as pornography.”

“Being attracted to sexualized images is a normal biological response at any age. Even subtle images can start a rush of chemicals to the brain with just enough dopamine and oxytocin to convince young viewers that what they are looking at is deceptively rewarding.”

“**Solution:** When parents recognize that ALL children are vulnerable to pornography they will want to create a safer online environment for kids. This includes installing parental controls, filters or accountability software like Covenant Eyes ([affiliate link](#)) on all devices. It also includes creating a plan for minimizing the effects of exposure when it happens.”

“Obstacle #5: Failing to prepare emotionally for a child’s exposure to porn”

“When parents have been silent on the issue of pornography, they are more likely to ‘freak out’ when they learn about a child’s exposure. According to Zurcher, parents’ initial reactions are always emotionally charged and often involve blame and punishment directed towards the child.”

“No matter how well intentioned, when we react in anger shame grows and kids withdraw. **Open dialogue and communication is cut off at a time when the child needs it the most.**”

“The truth is, the most valuable resource children have for combating the negative effects of pornography is parents who are willing to have open, non-shaming talks with them.”

“If you’ve reacted negatively in the past, don’t lose hope. It’s never too late to course correct. Your love and continues support is more important than anything.”

“Solution: When parents understand that children will be exposed to pornography they can prepare emotionally before it happens. A calm reaction to exposure will encourage open communication and increase a child’s confidence that they CAN build their own internal filter.”

“Every child deserves to be armed with the skills to reject pornography! Talking early and often with children about the harms of pornography gives children the edge they need to succeed and thrive in today’s digital reality. Consider each of these 5 obstacles we’ve discussed together today. Determine one area where you could make improvements. And start today to increase your child’s resilience to porn with warm, loving communication.”

(Marilyn Evans, Protect Young Mind, September 14, 2017, “How to Talk to Kids about Porn: Research Reveals 5 Obstacles to Overcome”<https://protectyoungminds.org/2017/09/14/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-porn/>)

Your Children Are Looking at Pornography. How Are You Responding?

1. “Create a nurturing environment to talk about sex with your children”

“The first thing parents need to do is just begin talking about sex. This is easier said than done, as the issue of sexuality is to closely connected to matters of one’s past behavior, shame, sin, present behavior, and all the brokenness that the Fall has brought down on sex. But if you don’t begin bringing this subject into the open in your home, you will leave your children defenseless against a culture that is quite willing to talk about sex (and show it) to your children.”

“Start by working to create a safe environment in your home to talk

about emotionally difficult things. Many parents think they are protecting their children by not talking about sex, but in reality they are creating an environment where the children will learn that sex is a taboo subject. As kids grow older, if you have not been talking regularly about sex with your children, then how will they deal with the normal sexual urges and desires they will have growing up? If there is no clear message coming from you, then you can pretty much know where it will be coming from. What's worse is, if the only time they hear you talking about sex is when you are critical of it (judging other's behavior), or if your only message is to not have sex before marriage, then they will grow up helpless against the onslaught of unbiblical messages coming their way."

"Start by examining God's view of sex"

"To teach your children about healthy sexuality, and to begin creating a nurturing environment to talk about it, first examine your own view of sexuality. Is your understanding of sex grounded in Scripture, or is it more based on your own parental upbringing or experiences? There is no way to avoid the impact of your own upbringing here, but it is critical to make what God's Word says about it paramount. The Bible is very free in discussing sexuality. In Genesis 2:25 we read that Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed. The Bible says there is nothing wrong with the human body and sexuality; it was the sin of Adam and Eve in disobeying God that caused sexuality to be distorted. It is only after they rebelled against God by eating the forbidden fruit that suddenly they were ashamed by their nakedness. In Proverbs 5:15-19 husbands are encouraged to rejoice in their wives—to enjoy their wives' breasts and to be drunk with her loving-making. In the Song of Solomon we have vivid descriptions of the joys of sexuality in the context of marriage."

"So, what message are you giving your children? Do they see sex as a beautiful gift from God to be enjoyed within the context of marriage,

or do they see it as something embarrassing that cannot be discussed? Are they being taught, by your words and your actions, that sex in the context of marriage is something that is right, good, exciting, and life-affirming?”

“Set the stage on this topic early on with your children. Even if you are late in the game, don’t hesitate to start it now! Learn what the Bible says about sex and let your own misunderstandings and distortions be shaped by God’s Word. Let God’s view of sexuality become yours. If your children are young, talk to them openly and in age-appropriate ways about sex: what it is for; why it is reserved for marriage between a man and a woman; how they should think and feel about sex and their own bodies. If your kids are older, do the same thing, but with teens you may only get an audience by coming at the topic “sideways.” Engage them in conversation over movies, television, news stories, etc. Ask them what their peers are saying about sex and relationships. This can be a good way to get them to open up about their own concerns and struggles about sex, which can then lead into a more “direct” talk on the subject.”

“Address the deeper longings of their hearts”

“Talking about the physical or aspects of sex with our children is not enough. There is more to sexuality than Biology 101. But even talking about the emotional aspects of sex is still not enough. Sex begins not with the biology of our bodies, but with the longing for relationship in our hearts.”

“The beginning of this article focused on the fact that our culture uses a “porn is norm” approach to entice our hearts to want something that will fill our hearts with what we lack. Advertisers clearly understand the human heart, that we have deep inner longings that never seem to be adequately met. That is why pornography is so powerful. Until our children understand why they can feel lonely in a crowded

room... until our children understand why they wish life had a happy ending like the movies... until our children understand why they can be sad for no apparent reason... until they understand the longing and emptiness that is always there inside of them, they will never know how to defend themselves against the strong, enticing pull of pornography.”

“We need to consistently communicate to our children that everyone has these inner longings that cannot be completely fulfilled in this life. This is not to create despair but to give hope. This is Christianity 101: sin has shattered everything in the world, and our longing for something more in life is a sign that points us toward the One who alone can ultimately fulfill us. We were created to be completely fulfilled in an eternal relationship with God, and from that all human relationships would flourish. But now, because of our broken hearts, even the best relationship we might have with God and others will leave us, in this life, longing for more.”

“Knowing this, about what we are made for and how sin has broken and impaired this relationship with God and others, can help our children identify their longings and resist the inevitable pull to meet them in false and sinful ways. Knowing why we have these longings is one of the best pieces of wisdom a parent can impart to a child. It will give the child a way to process all sorts of emotions and temptations.”

“Ask the right kinds of questions”

“How do you address these inner longings with your child? First, do what Jesus did: ask questions all over the place! Parents who only want to make sure their children don’t do anything wrong will generally engage them with commands and lectures. But parents who are wiser, knowing that their children are sinners like themselves and will do wrong things, will engage their behavior and their hearts

with probing questions. The first recorded words from Jesus in the book of John is a question: “What do you seek?” When addressing the disabled man at the pool of Bethesda, who obviously wanted nothing more than to walk again, he asked him a question, “Do you want to be healed?” Jesus always engaged a person at the level of the heart. We must do the same with our children. Do not just settle for what you see on the surface, their behavior. Dig deeper, for the sake of their souls!”

“When seeking to engage your child’s heart, watch your own heart! It is easy to ask questions that can be asked in a way that seeks to expose someone for judgment. Are you seeking information just so you can lower the ax? Are you trying to uncover behavior so that you can punish or “ground” your child? The wrong kind of questions, coming from the wrong kind of motive, will drive a child deeper into seclusion and secrecy—the very place sin, especially sexual sin, thrives.”

“Instead, ask questions that invite your child’s heart to show itself. Ask questions that help him talk about his feelings (positive and negative) and not just get him to explain his behavior. For example: “You’ve been spending a long time on your computer. What is it that you enjoy doing on it?” If you, instead, acted on your fears and directly asked, “Are you looking at porn?” you would close the discussion down immediately. Use an open-ended question to start off the conversation and then follow it with similar questions. You may (or may not) in that conversation get much detail, but a lifetime of engaging your child with questions that help them to be real is what you want to do.”

“The right kind of questions will affirm the child as being a person of value (created in the image of God) and someone you love and care about. The right kind of questions will allow the child to express his or her hurts and pains. The right kind of questions will uncover the

deeper longings that they wrestle with and allow you the opportunity to share truths about God and how to live life by his grace. Ask yourself when talking with your child, “Is this question going after behavior or is it trying to reveal the heart? Am I seeking to expose for judgment, or am I seeking to know their soul?”

“Listen with the right way of hearing”

“Second, as you ask your questions, be careful to genuinely listen and not overreact. Often our children will share something they have done, or a fantasy they may have, and we will react in a knee-jerk way. This is understandable, because we as parents are very protective of our children, but overreacting when they have risked being vulnerable with us will communicate to them that you will not love or understand them on that level. Staying calm and connected with him or her tells your child that your love for them is real, especially when they are being real and honest with you. When you do this, you are in a position to speak into their lives and have them listen to you. By really listening to them, you will find that they will be more willing to allow you to share with them your own concerns, listen to any alternate ways of thinking or behavior you might share with them, and, more importantly, help them wrestle with what God’s Word says as you look to the Scriptures for answers.”

“Understand their world with the right kind of knowledge”

“Third, take the time to learn what your child is up against. Enter his or her world. This may mean that you have to do some research. You may have to educate yourself about what his or her peers believe. For example: Did you know that many teens think that they can have oral sex with numerous partners and still be a virgin? Are you aware of how many ways your child can be bombarded with sexual images (the Internet, message apps, text messages, photo sharing sites, etc)?”

“Every generation has faced sexual temptation and has been pulled to behave in ways that are outside of God’s design. But this generation, with its proliferation of ways to gather information and communicate, is clearly up against the most formidable temptations that have ever existed. As their parent, you must stay on top of what your child faces every day.”

“Part of taking the time to learn about their world is also determining the extent of the problem your child might be facing. You need to know the dangers out there and also what your child has gotten into. So if you discover your son is visiting adult sites on the Internet, find out, in a non-threatening manner, how often he does this. What kinds of sites (heterosexual, homosexual, streaming videos, etc.) is he visiting? Such a string of questions might sound like you are grilling him, so how you ask will be critical to “invite” him to be honest with you. It is critical that you seek to discern the extent of your child’s behavior, constantly affirming to him that you are not doing this so that you can punish, but to figure out how best to help. Do not let a witch-hunt mentality develop. Instead, hold onto the idea that you are like a surgeon trying to determine the extent of the cancer so that you can treat the patient. Look for patterns in the behaviors that might reveal the deeper heart issues.”

“Remember that your goal in all of this is to look for the motives of the heart that might be leading your son or daughter into dangerous territory. Keep circling back in your mind to the fact that everyone’s sinful behaviors come out of sinful decisions made to address the core issues of the heart. Your goal is to help your child see, as much as possible, what is happening beneath the surface of his or her behavior.”

2. “Lead by example”

“It should be obvious that the course of action described above cannot occur in one conversation. It is a life-long process. Start doing it now. Carefully build that environment in which you and your children can take steps to be real and open with one another. Asking good questions directed at your child’s heart, listening well, and understanding the world in which he or she lives will go a long way toward creating such a nurturing environment.”

“But lead now. Don’t wait for tomorrow. Technology is rapidly advancing, and the culture is rapidly moving away from traditional (read: much less Christian) values. You cannot shield your children from problems and sin in this world. You can only shepherd them and give to them the lifelong tools of thinking and behaving that will better help them resist the pressures they will inevitably face once they are grown-up and on their own.”

“If your children are young, start talking to them now about God’s design for sex (see “Take Courage! Parents and the Dreaded Conversation,” another article on this website).”

“If you have found that your children have been looking at porn—and again, the odds are overwhelming that they have—go to our bookstore to order a copy of our mini book, *iSnooping on Your Kids: Parenting in an Internet World*. This mini book will give you further tools on how to talk to your kids about healthy sexuality and the destructive effects of pornography, along with many practical, technological, preventative steps to take.”

“To help teach your child what are the subtle ways porn impacts and twists one’s mind and heart in ways that destroy relationships, read our mini book, *What’s Wrong with a Little Porn When You’re Single.*”

“You might be thinking right now, with the direction the culture is going, that your children are doomed to make it through their childhood, much less their whole life, without escaping this scourge. Remember this, though: The good news is that the first followers of Jesus Christ found

themselves in a culture just as deeply broken and sexualized as our own. The Greek and Roman pantheons thrived on unlimited and outrageous sexual debauchery. The early church was filled with people who were coming out of lifestyles of immorality (I Corinthians 6:9-11). Yet the truth of the gospel overcame the pressures to conform to that culture. The gospel then is the gospel now: It is God's grace that trains us "to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives" (Titus 2:11-12, ESV)."

"God's Word still speaks powerfully to these issues. You can have the faith that as you share this same gospel with your children, they will experience hope and change. Our hope as parents does not falter, because Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever."

(HarvestUSA, Polymath, "Your Children Are Looking at Pornography. How Are You Responding?" Site Accessed January 17, 2018, <https://www.harvestusa.org/your-children-are-looking-at-pornography-how-are-you-responding/>)

Help Your Kids Say 'No' to Porn

"Research suggests [Research suggests](#) that one in three children ages 11 to 14 have viewed pornography on a mobile device."

"Let me tell you what played out at the sixth-grade lunch table that day. When the phone with the images was offered, my son responded, 'I don't look at porn.' The owner of the phone, perplexed, asked, 'Then how will you know how to have sex?' My son responded that his parents had told him all about it. Jaws dropped. Not one other sixth-grade boy at the table had yet talked with his parents about sex, or, it would seem, about porn. But they were by no means lacking instruction."

"Train your children how to respond to an offer of porn by giving them scripted words to use, and a plan of action:

"Parent: 'If someone shows you a picture of something and asks you

not to tell anyone, what should you do?”

“Child: ‘Tell them ‘no thanks,’ and then come tell you.’”

“Parent: ‘If a picture of something strange comes up on the computer, what should you do?’”

“Child: ‘Ex it out, and then come tell you.’”

“Check out these additional resources:”

- [Talking to Your Kids About Sex and Puberty \(Focus on the Family\)](#)
- [God’s Design for Sex](#) (Stan and Brenna Jones)
- [Mary Flo Ridley’s blog](#). I was especially encouraged looking through the posts tagged “Sex Talk”
- [Tim Challies’s approach](#) to establishing both internal and external controls to protect your family from porn
- My related article on talking to kids about bad words: [“The Mother of All Swear Words”](#)

(Jen Wilkin, The Gospel Coalition, July 17, 2014, “Help Your Kids Say ‘No’ to Porn”, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/help-your-kids-say-no-to-porn/>)

(Jen Wilkin is a wife, mom to four great kids, and an advocate for women to love God with their minds through the faithful study of his Word. She writes, speaks, and teaches women the Bible. She lives in Flower Mound, Texas, and her family calls The Village Church home. Jen is the author of *None Like Him: 10 Ways God Is Different from Us (and Why That’s a Good Thing)* (Crossway, 2016) and *Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds* (Crossway, 2014). You can find her at jenwilkin.net and follow her on Twitter.)

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/profile/jen->

Parenting the Porn Generation

1. “Affirm the goodness of their sexuality.”

“Sometimes Catholic parents, especially when they themselves were brought up with a standard of chastity that focused on a list of sins

and temptations to be avoided, may feel unprepared to provide their kids with an affirmative view of sex and the body.”

“But raising them to value their sexuality as something good and holy is essential to protecting them from exposure to porn and to inculcating in them a positive desire for purity generally.”

“They will be trained to see clearly the great difference between the lies of porn and unchastity and the great truths of God’s plan for human sexuality.”

“It is also useful when it comes to teaching modesty and self-control, even at a young age. It is precisely *because* your child’s body is good agents and wonderful that he is not to treat it like a toy; it is precisely *because* your child’s body is sacred that she should veil what demands the reverence.”

“Even when our children are very young, my wife and I make it a priority to affirm their sexuality daily – teaching them that God created them male or female so that they can become a gift in self-donating love.”

“Each night before bed I lay my hands on them and offer this prayer:

“Dear heavenly Father, I thank you that you have created [name] to be a strong boy/beautiful girl. I ask that he/she would grow up to be a strong man/beautiful and strong woman to give his/her life away as a priest or a husband/nun or a wife.”

2. “Be a parent, not a buddy.”

“I know that you know this – or that you *think* you know this, but it bears repeating. Your child *needs* you to parent him. And a large part of parenting means saying no. In fact, if your child hasn’t gotten angry

at you over the past week because you would not let him have his way, you're probably not doing a very good job parenting him."

"In the sphere of chastity, saying no is the flip side of affirming your children's sexuality. It doesn't mean to shelter kids from every possible bad influence in the world; rather, it's about exercising prudent vigilance."

"There never was a teenager who couldn't survive without a smart phone, but there are countless thousands whose Internet-connected phones become personal porn terminals. Laptops behind locked bedroom doors might help a little with homework, but they're also inviters of temptation. Your child was invited to a sleepover: Do you know what kind of supervision the host family exercises over the computer or cable box? If you're not prepared to say no, you might find all your vigilance undone by another family's carelessness."

3. "Use filters and accountability software."

"We have talked first about giving kids a foundation that affirms God's gift of their bodies, then about circumstances in which we must be prepared to say no in order to protect that gift."

"As a supplement to rather than a replacement for our work of forming and parenting our kids, Internet filters and other content-blocking tools can be useful, especially when your children are young. As they grow older, however, it's important that you not simply block them but continue to teach them."

"This is how accountability software differs from filtering. Instead of blocking websites, it monitors all the sites that your child visits and then sends a report to an accountability partner (you). This changes the mentality of the child surfing the Internet. Rather than him wondering how he could get around a filter to visit some forbidden-fruit website, he will know that he could visit the website but that he

will have to answer for it.”

When you think about it, isn't this how the heavenly Father acts toward us? He could 'block' us from turning our backs on him and from the pain our sins bring, but he does not. Rather he teaches us right from wrong, and implores us to do what's right (while giving us the grace necessary to do it). He does not censor our every thought and action because he desires us to grow up to be responsible moral: sons and daughters who freely choose what is good. We parents ought to follow his example.”

“In my opinion, the best accountability software can be found at www.covenanteyes.org.
(<http://www.covenanteyes.com/?promocode=pureinheart>)

(Matt Fradd, Catholic.com Magazine, April 14, 2013, “Parenting the Porn Generation”, <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/parenting-the-porn-generation>)

(Matt Fradd speaks to tens of thousands of people every year. He is the author of several books, including [Does God Exist?: A Socratic Dialog on the Five Ways of Thomas Aquinas](#) and [The Porn Myth: Exposing the Reality Behind the Fantasy of Pornography](#). Matt earned his master's and undergraduate degree's in philosophy from Holy Apostles College. His podcasts, [Love People Use Things](#) and [Pints With Aquinas](#) are listened to by tens of thousands of people every month. Matt lives with his wife, Cameron, and their children in the mountains of North Georgia. Learn more at MattFradd.com)

How to Talk to your Teens about Porn (Part II)

“In my previous post, I wrote about the importance of talking to your teen about porn. Here are four tips to help facilitate the talk.”

1. “Have a continual conversation with your kids about sex.

“Unfortunately for many youth, their first exposure to pornography

signals their first sex education. Because many pornography scenes depict unrealistic or degrading scenarios, youth are left with unhealthy notions of sex and may play those out in their dating relationships. To set their teens up for success, parents need to take the time to educate their sons and daughters about not only the biological aspect of sex, but also about the values and meaning behind their sexuality. It's not only the biological aspect of sex, but also about the values and meaning behind their sexuality. It's not only about talking about the 'what' or 'how' of sex; it's about the 'why.'"

Several former clients have indicated that when they were teens, their fathers read books like Every Young Man's Battle with them to begin the discussion about the birds and the bees. Of course, none of them could give me specifics as to what was discussed. The teens, however, reflect that it was worthwhile of their time. They received the message that sexuality was important."

2. "Have a sense of congruency between your words and values."

"Many of my clients who come in later in life for sex or pornography issues first discovered pornography through their father's 'secret' stash of porn. These days, high speed internet has made it so that anybody can access porn practically any time or anywhere. Yet, kids who see their parents engage in inappropriate behavior get the implied message that 'if it's okay for my parents to do this, then it's okay for me to do this.'"

3. "Protect your household through setting limits with computer access."

"My wife and I have an adorable eight-month-old-son, and we're in the process of baby-proofing the house. We buy outlet protectors, baby-proof gates, and generally strategize about how to make the house safer for our son. In the same vein, teens are in their sexual infancy and need protection. Internet filters are a wise investment. The latest computers come with a 'family safety' option, where parents can control the content viewed. If the family is using a

desktop computer, set up the station in the living room or other area where others are around. Also, establish guidelines as to limit of cell phone usage.”

4. “Spend time with your teen.”

“This last tip is perhaps the most crucial. While your teen may send you the message that they are too cool to hang around their parents, they aren’t. Teens need a wall to push against. They need somebody to set limits. Listen to what they have to say without judgment. Doing so helps to develop a relationship based on trust and communication. For some teens without a secure parental connection, getting caught looking at porn could be a cry for attention, for help, and for relationship.”

(Anthony Liu, CPCC, Sexual Recovery Blog, “How to Talk to your Teens about Porn (Part II)”, <http://cpccounseling.com/sexual-recovery-blog/how-to-talk-to-your-teens-about-porn-part-ii/>)

Anthony Q. Liu, Marriage Family Therapist, MA, LMFT, CSAT

How do you talk to your 6 – year – old about porn?

“Kids are viewing [porn as young as 6](#), and head teachers in the U.K. say they’ve got to learn about the dangers of online smut as soon as they start using the Internet.”

“So how do you talk to your 6-year-old about porn?”

“‘There isn’t an easy answer, but as soon as children are getting access to this, it’s time to begin the conversation,’ said Russell Hobby, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), according to the [BBC](#).”

“One teacher discussed a boy discovering explicit images when researching the North Pole.”

“Children as young as 3 – nursery-age children – access computers,’ said Stephen Watkins, head teacher of Millfield School in Leeds. ‘If they see something that shouldn’t be there they should know to go and tell an adult.’”

“Watkins also warned against parents setting up Facebook accounts for youngsters, with the possibility that they might access illicit material. He claimed that of the 33 kids aged 10 and 11 in his school’s top grade, he found out 24 are already on Facebook and had written to those children’s parents.”

A researcher claimed earlier this year that 34 percent of U.K. 9- to 12-year-olds have Facebook profiles, despite the site being officially off-limits to those under 13. It’s likely that even younger kids have Facebook accounts.”

“In a NAHT survey of 1,009 parents, 83 percent said students should learn about the dangers of porn in sex-ed classes. 40 percent felt kids should learn this in early primary school (that is, between the ages of 5 and 8); a little over half felt it more prudent to approach the topic with teens. Around 90 percent believed any device with Internet access should automatically block porn.”

“A study published last week suggested children are [watching porn online](#) as young as the age of 6. Antivirus firm Bitdefender’s report also claimed a quarter of kids use a social network by the age of 12, with 17 percent sharing to Twitter and Facebook by 10.”

“To articulate what pornography is to someone who’s just learned to tie their own shoelaces cannot be a simple task.”

(Kris Holt, The Daily Dot, May 20, 2013, “How do you talk to your 6 – year – old about porn?”, <https://www.dailydot.com/society/talk-to-your-kids-about-porn/>)

Ben Bennett



BEN BENNETT

SPEAKER | AUTHOR

Ben grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia and met Christ at an early age. After being heavily involved in Cru throughout college, and developing a great desire to see college students transformed by the gospel, he joined their staff in 2011.

For over 10 years of his life, Ben battled a porn addiction and other forms of habitual sexual sin before coming to lasting freedom through a Biblical and clinical approach to sexual addiction recovery.

Ben currently resides in Dallas, Texas and serves with Josh McDowell Ministry as an author, speaker, and evangelist supporting the health and restoration of men and women struggling with woundedness, habitual sin, and sexual brokenness.

For more than fifty years, Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and groundbreaking ministry. Ben will serve alongside Josh, writing, speaking and shining the light of Christ into the darkest places, and helping believers be prepared to share with confidence, knowing the reason why Christianity is reliable, relational and relevant to our lives.

Ben is available to speak on:

iGen for Jesus | Overcoming Sin & Setbacks | You, Me, We | Wholeness In A Sex Saturated World | Relevant, Reliable, Relational: The Bible?



WHO'S TALKING ABOUT BEN?



"Ben speaks from personal experience of the freedom Christ offers each and every troubled heart. It is such a delight for me to hear Ben speak for his generation in such a relevant, reliable, and relational way."

-Dr. Ted Roberts // Pastor, Counselor, and Founder of Pure Desire Ministries

"While many young people today struggle with hurt, mental health issues, and addictions, few have a story of freedom to share like Ben's that renews hope, gives a roadmap to healing, and inspires next steps. I've personally benefited greatly from what Ben has to share and I think many people in all walks of life will too."

-Karl Armentrout // Cru National Conference and Events Director

"My hidden sin had me imprisoned in silence, guilt, and secrets for years. When I attended Ben's session, he shared his journey of liberty from sin, and I felt the Holy Spirit moving and convicting me. Through Ben's personal encouragement and passion for sharing the love of God, I shared my darkest sin with others and began the journey of healing and freedom through Jesus and His wonderful people. Thank you Ben."

-Marylyn // Texas College Student

Ben is the author of:

Living Free

FLESH SERIES: Sex, Lust, Porn and The Christian

Josh, Ben, and Jake are launching a movement focused on speaking, equipping, and connecting individuals to solutions to overcoming unwanted struggles.

Through interactive speaking, digital content, and practical next step resources, God is raising up a generation of young people who are passionate about following Jesus wholeheartedly and working through the setbacks and sin that hinder them.



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Jake Kissack



JAKE KISSACK

SPEAKER

Jake was raised where the buffalo still do roam. His family owns a 3000 acre cattle ranch in Wyoming. His adventurous heart was pursued and captivated by Jesus as far back as memory serves. His passion to see Jesus bring life to all was bolstered in his master's degree thesis work on how pornography negatively affects the church.

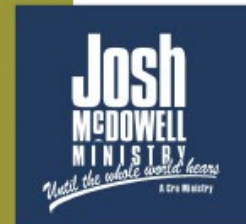
His 13 year journey with a porn addiction crushed his passion and compelled him to seek true freedom, which was found through Christian sexual addiction recovery.

Jake resides in Dallas, Texas and serves with the Josh McDowell ministry as a developing author, speaker, storyteller and evangelist, supporting the health and restoration of men and women struggling with porn and sexual brokenness.

For more than fifty years, Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and groundbreaking ministry. Jake will serve alongside Josh, writing, speaking and shining the light of Christ into the darkest places, and helping believers be prepared to share with confidence, knowing the reason why Christianity is reliable, relational and relevant to our lives.

Jake is available to speak on:

When God Talks | Empowered to Live Life Fully Alive | Connections that Count
Wholeness in A Sex Saturated World | Unshakable Truth // Live for Love



WHO'S TALKING ABOUT JAKE?



Jake is wholesome, invigorating and smart. His ability to speak is only surpassed by his contagious love for Christ and the Scripture. He wins the hearts and minds of students through stories."

-Josh D. McDowell // Author/Speaker

Jake communicates with compassion for the wounded and broken and has an authentic desire to see people healed and set free. God's work through his message has been a beacon of hope that has empowered struggling students to find freedom and live wholehearted.

-Sherry Broesamle // Field Director of People & Culture, CRU

Jake's heart and passion is to participate in and see God heal wounds and restore people.

-Austin Adams // Family Pastor, Crossroads Community Church

Jake passionately plants seeds of gospel hope and invites people to live whole heartedly for the glory of God. His message is culturally relevant, Gospel focused, and needed wherever young people are gathering!

-Kurt Sauder // Author, Speaker, Radio Host, Further Still Ministries

Josh, Ben, and Jake are launching a movement focused on speaking, equipping, and connecting individuals to solutions to overcoming unwanted struggles.

Through interactive speaking, digital content, and practical next step resources, God is raising up a generation of young people who are passionate about following Jesus wholeheartedly and working through the setbacks and sin that hinder them.



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Alex McClellan



ALEX MCLELLAN

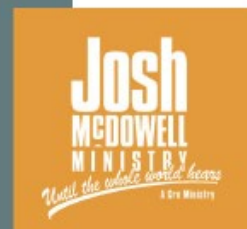
SPEAKER | AUTHOR

Alex McClellan serves with Josh McDowell Ministry, a Cru ministry (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ). An effective communicator with international experience, Alex is passionate about engaging others with the gospel, and he has joined our team to share the truth of Christ – until the whole world hears.

For more than fifty years, Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and groundbreaking ministry. Alex will serve alongside Josh, writing, speaking and shining the light of Christ into the darkest places, and helping believers be prepared to share with confidence, knowing the reason why Christianity is reliable, relational and relevant to our lives.

Alex is available to speak on:

You Can Handle the Truth! | How To Find The Meaning Of Life
Reasons To Believe In The Resurrection | Will The Real Jesus Please
Stand Up | How Do You Make Sense of Suffering? | Can We Trust The
Bible? | Be Prepared to Share (1 Peter 3) | Be Prepared to Shine
(Matthew 5) and more . . .



WHO'S TALKING ABOUT ALEX?



"Alex is a winsome and effective communicator who understands how skeptics view the gospel and the questions they raise...I enthusiastically recommend his work."

—Ravi Zacharias, Ravi Zacharias International Ministry

"Alex's ministry has been immensely beneficial to the church in helping to train, equip and prepare God's people for the task of bringing the gospel to the world and the world to Christ."

—Wayne Sutton, Senior Pastor, Carrubbers Christian Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Alex is gifted in providing a strong intellectual and culturally relevant expression of the Christian faith and this has been a powerful way for our students to build their own foundation in Christ and His Word."

—Peter Thomas, National Director, Capernwray Bible School, Australia

Alex is the author of:

A Jigsaw Guide to Making Sense of the World (InterVarsity Press, 2012)

A Jigsaw Guide to the Meaning of Life (JG2P, 2016)

A Jigsaw Guide to Sharing Your Faith (JG2P, 2016)

Alex and Sheryl have been married for over twenty years and have three children: Sophia, Moriah and Asher. The family lived in Scotland, UK, before relocating to the USA, and they currently reside in San Diego, California.



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Josh McDowell



JOSH McDOWELL

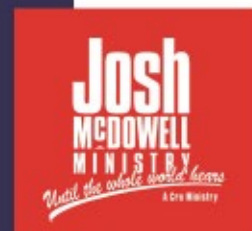
SPEAKER | AUTHOR

Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and groundbreaking ministry for more than 54 years. He shares the essentials of the Christian faith in everyday language so that people of all ages and stages can know Christ, understand what they believe and why it is true, and learn how to live, share and defend their faith.

Well known as an articulate speaker, Josh has spoken to approximately 35 million people, in 140 countries. Josh has written or co-authored more than 150 books in over 100 languages including *More Than a Carpenter* with over 27 million copies distributed and *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, named one of the twentieth century's top 40 books and one of the thirteen most influential books of the last 50 years on Christian thought by World Magazine. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* also just won the 2018 Evangelical Christian Publishers Association award in the Bible Reference Book category.

Josh is available to speak on:

Relationships | Parenting | Reliability of Scripture | My Journey
Self Image | Sexual Integrity | Truth in Today's Culture



WHO'S TALKING ABOUT JOSH?



"This has helped me more than any other kind of seminar on speaking"
-Cru Staff Member, Young Communicators Seminar

"His message spoke to all of us but certainly impacted the hearts and minds of the teens the most."
-Alpha Women's Center of Grand Rapids Staff Member

"Youth leaders and teachers spoke to us for weeks after the dinner telling us his message opened paths to discussion of needs with their groups."
- Ministry Leader and Event Host

"Josh's message was a deep examination of God's truth made relevant for your contemporary, apathetic youth culture."
-Tim Rickman, High School Principal, Wesleyan Education Center

Josh McDowell is an award-winning author and international speaker. He has written or co-written more than 150 books--some in over 100 languages--and has spoken to approximately 35 million people in 140 countries.

Josh and his wife Dottie have been married 46 years. They have four children and ten grandchildren.



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