

Lesson 18:

Tips for Parents

“That’s one thing I don’t understand. The parents that let their kids stay for hours on end on the Internet, at a friend’s house at one or two in the morning. There is no good that can come from that. Period!”

Karise, Recovering Addict

Being The Parent

The vast majority of parents today understand that one of their main responsibilities is to provide a healthy and safe environment for their children.

However, many parents struggle in knowing the boundaries and steps necessary to do so in today’s culture. It is so different than the culture in which they were raised.

Perhaps no single facet of culture has changed more drastically than that of pornography.

It is understandable, therefore, that no facet is less talked about as well.

Some parents, who would never think of showing a child pornography, leave their stash around the house where it can be discovered. Many allow their children full access to the TV, even providing cable access in their children’s rooms. Then there is the issue of allowing full Internet access to personal computers, cell phones, iPads, etc., all the while thinking that they have provided a safe environment for their kids.

Although this may not be happening at your house, could it be happening at the house of your child’s friends when they visit? Parents who are completely opposed to pornography in any form and would be furious if there was any in their house for their child to stumble upon, at the same time, allow their children to surf the Internet. Many times children are given access to computers with no filter, no parental guidance, and no education or conversation about the potential dangers.

The kids are literally one click away from more pornography than the parent could ever imagine and an experience the child will never forget.

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1. Are you concerned that your child has already viewed Internet pornography? Why or why not?

2. What types of accountability do you provide for your child when it comes to pornography or sexual behavior?

3. Do you have a filter on all of your computers that your children use? Why or why not?

4. Do you regularly check to ensure the filter is working properly and up to date? Explain.

5. What action do you take if/when you notice there were attempts to view something the filter would not allow?

6. What accountability do you have for your child with regards to the amount of time spent on Internet and TV?

7. Does your child have the ability to watch TV or use the Internet in private? Why or why not?

8. Was masturbation ever discussed in your home as a child? Why or why not?

9. What is your belief about masturbation today?

10. Do you have an appropriately comprehensive timeline of your child's pornography use if you have discovered he/she has been viewing it?
