

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE©

By

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INTRODUCTION: A LETTER TO MEN'S GROUP LEADERS

“Celebrate the Jubilee” is a tool for Christians to address the issues of pornography and other issues of integrity that destroy lives, families and relationships.

The format of this discussion material may be different than anything you have seen before. It is designed to help your small group to overcome some of the hurdles men's groups often have when trying to generate honest, personal discussions.

In many men's group situations, specifically with regard to the subject of sexual sin, there may be a hesitancy to open up to a deep level of love and understanding with one another. Anxiety and fear are often the hurdles which keep men from giving and receiving honest and helpful feedback. However, *Celebrate the Jubilee* is designed to offer a real opportunity to break through the anxiety and fear—to break the chains of secrecy, and provide an atmosphere of compassion, freedom and honesty.

The format of “Celebrate the Jubilee” is a script. The character parts in this script are meant to be read aloud during your time together as a group. The script follows the story of six characters who are meeting regularly as a men's group. In a series of six meetings, these men begin to open up and talk about their integrity. Each week, after you read through the script, there are discussion questions for your group to talk through.

If you aren't accustomed to this format, that's OK. Try this format as an experiment for your group: it can be a fun, creative way to take your group to the next level of vulnerability.

- One reason men often don't open up to other men is because they have never been *shown* what vulnerability looks like in a small group setting. This format allows the men in your group to *see it happen* in the script first, and then practice the same openness in their own group.
- Integrity is an issue that should be important to all followers of Jesus. Integrity exemplifies who you are when no one is looking. As this script is read aloud, your group will hear the men in the story begin to open up about the secret areas of their lives. This is meant to provide your group with a format which will empower men to open their hearts and minds to matters of integrity.
- Pornography is a secret sin that is affecting far too many men in the church today. As members of your group read this script, they will watch as this secret sin is exposed and confessed in the story. The script will effectively “open the can of worms,” as it were, for you and your group as you read the parts aloud.
- Ultimately, through follow-up discussions your group will identify and interact with the action and dialogue of the story. The resolution to “Celebrate the Jubilee” becomes clear as your group interacts with it: God's redemptive power is far greater than the bondage of anxiety and fear.

On the next page are six brief character sketches of the men featured in the story. Before introducing this script to your group, have someone read these character biographies aloud to the whole group, allowing your group to get a feel for each of the characters. Then ask for volunteers in your group to be the readers for each part. Have fun with selecting your readers.

The material in these lessons consists of six chapters to be used sequentially. They may be downloaded separately when needed or all together.

We hope you enjoy “Celebrate the Jubilee,” and we hope the members of your small group experience the liberation that comes from a life of integrity.

Blessings,
“Celebrate the Jubilee” Team
Covenant Eyes, Inc.

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

~ MEET THE CAST ~

Have someone in your group read these character sketches aloud. As you listen to them and read along, keep in mind which character part, if any, you would like to read.



ROGER

- Age:** Early 70s
- Church status:** Church leader, heavily involved, attends every time the door is open
- Marriage and Family:** Married to Elizabeth for 40 years; one daughter, named Susan.
- Christianity:** Roger has been a Christian since he was 16 years old.
- First Exposure to Porn:** Limited exposure to conventional pornography during his childhood; some exposure in college.
- Career Interest:** Middle level purchasing manager in a large retail firm.
- Internet:** Started using the Internet just two years before so he could use email.
- Internet Usage:** At first he used just minutes a day but Internet usage is growing as he began to explore different functions.



JEREMY

- Age:** Mid 30s
- Church status:** Attended church all his life, some level of involvement in regular activities like Sunday services and men's meetings. Has avoided leadership responsibilities.

Marriage and Family: Married to Kate; two children: age 10 (daughter) and 12 (son—Little Jeremy)
Christianity: Has attended church all his life and made a profession of Christianity when he was a child.
First Exposure to Porn: 12 years old, saw “girlie” magazine at uncle’s house
Career Interest: Middle level purchasing manager in a large retail firm.
Internet: Has used the Internet for many years.
Internet Usage: Like most of his generation he spends a great deal of time online. Makes Internet purchases, downloads music and checks email.



GEORGE

Age: Mid-60s.
Church status: Has been a member of the church for over 30 years and has been heavily involved as a church leader for the past 8 years.
Marriage and Family: Married to Rachel for 45 years. Involved in adultery 15 years before but marriage survived after much counseling and sadness. Two adult children.
Christianity: Became a Christian when he was in the military.
First Exposure to Porn: Exposed to “pin up posters” when he was in the military but did not pursue pornography on his own.
Career Interest: Retired after 35 years of professional accounting practice
Internet: Got his first computer one year before. Knows little more than turning it on and off and checking emails.
Internet Usage: Mainly checking for email messages from his two adult children.



PHIL

Age: 48 years old

Church status: Attended several churches over past 40 years. Has attended current church only one year. Church he was involved in before split over a divisive issue in the congregation.

Marriage and Family: Five children aged 5 to 19. He has been married to Jan for 15 years. Previously married. Phil took custody of children from previous marriage.

Christianity: Even though he attended church for a long time, only came to a real understanding of Christianity in the last three years. Both he and Jan became Christians during special evangelistic meetings in the community.

Career Interest: Has worked in a computer-related field for 20 years as a computer programmer.

First Exposure to Porn: Some moderate exposure when he was a child—“girlie magazines” at the barbershop.

Internet: High level of computer and Internet expertise. Uses it for business, personal and recreational purposes.

Internet Usage: Spends hours a day online at his job. Also spends considerable time recreationally after hours.



KEN

Age: 55 years old

Church status: Heavily involved in the church. Teaches an adult Sunday School class.

Marriage and Family: Been married 25 years to Beverly. They have three children. Daughter Julie is married to Jeff. Julie is pregnant with their second child.

Christianity: Attended church from childhood. Made profession of Christianity in Sunday School as a young man.

Career Interest: Tool and die maker in a local factory where he has worked since graduating from high school.

First Exposure to Porn: Always turned his eyes away, even as a teen. Crusades against anyone who indulges in even “soft core porn”—such as movies, television, billboards. Tends to be judgmental of those who struggle with sin issues.

Internet: Never has had it, doesn’t even own a computer.

Internet Usage: None.



JOHN

- Age:** 22 years old
- Church status:** In and out. Attended church sporadically with his parents as a child. Men's group is his main church activity. Is especially committed when things are going wrong in his personal life.
- Marriage and Family:** Single. Has been sexually active with several girls since high school. He has no one in his life right now.
- Christianity:** Professes to have become a Christian after attending a short-term missionary trip with the youth group during his senior year in high school.
- Career Interest:** Works for a construction company.
- First Exposure to Porn:** So many exposures since childhood he cannot remember the first. Normally John is transparent about his sin struggles, but because he has been so desensitized to pornography and sensuality he does not see the problems in his own life.
- Internet:** Learned to use the Internet in school. No interest in the technical aspects of the Internet.
- Internet Usage:** Uses it especially for video gaming and music downloads.

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CHAPTER ONE: WHATEVER HAPPENS HERE STAYS HERE

As Roger climbs the stairs he appears visibly burdened, not by age or the steepness of the steps. Rather a great emotional weight is pulling on his heart. An October sun is pouring harvest light through the windows of his small town church, and outside the trees are dressed in an autumn glow of red and yellow. Roger pauses at the top of the stairs and places his hand on the wooden sign scrawled painstakingly with the room's appropriate title, the Upper Room. He bows his head and prays that the Spirit will fill this Upper Room as it did in a similar room 2,000 years ago. He has arrived early to pray for the men he has been serving as leader of this Wednesday night men's group. Soon his prayer is interrupted by footfalls and the joking conversation of men as they enter this Upper Room.

ROGER 'Evening men. John, I'm glad you're here tonight.

ALL Hey, John—welcome—we're glad to see you—we missed you!

ROGER I had planned on continuing our Bible study in the Gospel of John tonight, but something happened to me a couple of weeks ago and I really feel like it's time to talk to you guys.

JEREMY Sure.

KEN Go ahead, Roger.

ROGER A couple of weeks ago, I was checking my email messages—like I just learned to do—

PHIL Well, it's about time you learned to do that!

ROGER Yes, I know, I know...there was this email message to click on a link and all of a sudden, half a dozen screens of pornography popped up! I was shocked! I couldn't believe what I was seeing!

PHIL That's called SPAM, Roger. You should never click on a link from an email message unless you're absolutely sure where it's from.

KEN Well, what did you do?

ROGER I couldn't close them fast enough. They kept popping up faster than I could close them.

KEN That's why I don't have a computer! I never did trust them.

ROGER Even though I closed them as fast as I could, a couple of those nasty images were burned into my mind. I turned off my computer and when I turned it back on again they were gone.

PHIL What about the message itself? Could you get rid of that?

ROGER Actually, no. I didn't delete it at first. But the worst thing of all is that every time I saw that message sitting there it made me think about those pictures.

Last night, it finally hit me that I was being tempted to sin just by leaving that email on my computer. So I deleted it and realized that I need to tell you guys what happened.

GEORGE Phil, you set up my system, could that happen to me?

PHIL Oh yeah... It happens to almost everyone who's connected. Anyone who uses the net regularly is eventually going to get something like this. It goes with the territory. I read somewhere that everyday there are 2.5 billion porn emails sent ^a

GEORGE Did you say "billion" with a B?

PHIL Yup. And the number is growing.

JEREMY There are a lot of bad websites out there too.

ROGER If there are that many pornographic emails going out every day there must be an awful lot of guys like me who are being tempted by them.

GEORGE Roger, I've known you for twenty years and I can't imagine that you would ever get involved with pornography! I'm not condemning you for it. But I'm just really shocked.

JOHN They're just pictures. Guys are exposed to that stuff all the time. It's not that big of a deal. It's not like they're *doing* something.

KEN What do you mean it's not that big a deal? Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount that if a man looks upon a woman to lust after her he has committed adultery in his heart!

JOHN I mean, they're just pictures! It's one thing to *do* it—sex I mean. It's another thing to have some pictures shoved in your face.

KEN I don't know, John. Do you remember about King David and Bathsheba? He was looking at his neighbor's wife, lusted in his heart for her, and ended up getting the judgment of God upon the whole nation!

JOHN But it's not like a person is really doing what David did by looking at some pictures. David slept with another man's wife, for crying-out-loud! Then he killed her husband!

ROGER We'd better talk about that word "lust" for a few minutes. What does it really mean?

PHIL Lust means "desire." To "want" something—to want it really bad.

ROGER Right. Let's look at a Scripture passage in James 1 that discusses the development of lust. I've been thinking about it a lot the last few days. Would someone like to read it? James 1:14, 15.

JEREMY *“But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”*

ROGER When the word “lust” is used in the Bible, it usually refers to an *intense desire* which is *excessive* and *misdirected*, and *leads to sin*, like Jeremy just read. Sometimes it’s used to describe the intense desire for money or power. But most of the time when we use it today we mean some kind of sexual experience.

Guys, I can tell you that those pictures sexually aroused me. Not only the images themselves when I first saw them, but also by the memory of them. And I call that lust!

I’ve heard that 70% of Christian men say they have struggled with Internet pornography ...

Now you can count me in that group...

I also know that a significant number of Christian men are tempted by it even more than I was. They can even become obsessed with it, addicted to it, and begin living a secret life.

When a man has a “secret life” it affects every area of his life; and for the Christian man, it affects every area of his ministry. Imagine that many men having a secret life with pornography! What kind of impact do you suppose that has on our marriages? Our families? Our churches? Our relationship with God?

GEORGE How big do you suppose this problem really is?

ROGER It’s big. *It’s very big!*

GEORGE How about if before next week we try to come up with some numbers to prove that? I’m not doubting you, Roger. But you know me—

PHIL We all know you, George—you old Bean Counter you!

GEORGE Ah, you guys. You’ve got me figured out don’t you?

PHIL Back to our verse, what do those words in verse 14, “drawn away,” really mean?

ROGER The word “drawn” literally means to “drag.” It’s a strong term in the original language the Bible was written in. It implies an intense action—almost aggressive. Sexual temptation is like that. It screams for our attention and tries to rope us and drag us in.

GEORGE Roger, I think I can talk about that.

ROGER Go ahead.

GEORGE You guys know that I’ve been around a lot longer than the Internet. Back when I was in Korea, we didn’t have email or pornographic websites. The pin up posters that guys hung up in the barracks looked pretty tame by today’s standards. But that doesn’t mean we didn’t have lust back then. Sexual lust is as old as civilization!

PHIL Pin up posters? You are old, George! Ha! Ha! Just kidding. We love ya, Big Guy!

ROGER Let's take a look at the words Ken quoted earlier. They're from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:27-28. Jeremy, do you still have your Bible open? Can you read those verses for us?

JEREMY Sure
"You have heard that it was said, you shall not commit adultery...but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

ROGER It's obvious that sexual lust is connected to adultery. But let's explore that connection a bit more. Do pictures, like I saw, really count here? Jeremy, what do you think?

JEREMY I guess if they were just paintings or drawings, John's point earlier about "just pictures" might be true. But it sounds like you saw photos of real women.

ROGER That's true.

GEORGE And those posters we used to have were of real women. A lot of them were actresses or models. Some of them even came to visit us at the USO meetings...

The guys used to fantasize about having sex with them. So even though they were just drawings, they definitely made some of us lust after women. I'd say it's the same thing as adultery.

ROGER When Jesus used the word "lust" in this passage, it's sometimes translated as "covet" in other passages of the New Testament. Isn't that interesting? When you hear the word "covet" what do you think?

PHIL The Ten Commandments. The last one says, "Thou shalt not covet."

ROGER What does the rest of that say, Phil?

PHIL Something about not coveting your neighbor's house or his wife.

ROGER Right. So coveting suggests wanting something that doesn't belong to you. So here is another element in sexual sin. Not only is lust "intense desire" but also it's intense desire "for something that does not belong to you."

GEORGE That's exactly what happened with those pin ups in Korea. They wanted something that didn't belong to them.

PHIL It's really no different from looking at my neighbor's new BMW sitting in his garage. He paid \$50,000 for that baby. Man do I want one of those!

JOHN In your dreams, man. Only in your dreams...

ROGER Wanting a certain car or motorcycle or wishing you had as green a lawn as your neighbor can be lust too. But there's something about sexual lust that seems to be different from other kinds of covetousness.

JOHN But sin is sin. Y'know, how can one be worse than another?

ROGER Maybe one reason is because the consequences of sexual sin in marriages, families and societies are so devastating. The Bible is filled with stories that illustrate this. Does anyone remember the Old Testament story of Absalom's half brother and sister?

KEN Do you mean where Absalom's brother, Amnon, raped Absalom's sister Tamar?

ROGER Right. It's found in II Samuel 13. We don't have time to read the whole thing. So let me summarize it for you.

David had a son named Amnon and a daughter named Tamar. They had different mothers. But Amnon lusted after Tamar. The Bible says she was very attractive and suggests that every time Amnon saw her he had an intense desire to have sex with her. He tried to convince her to sleep with him but, being a decent girl, she refused. That didn't stop Amnon, however. One day, he and a friend devised a scheme to get her into his bedroom so he could make his move. He pretended to be sick and said one thing that would make him better would be to have his dear sister Tamar make him a special meal—

JOHN You gotta be kidding! What a line—

ROGER But it worked. Tamar was sent to his bedroom. And then he demanded that everyone leave except her. And the Bible says he then demanded she have sex with him. When she refused, he violently raped her.

KEN If that were my daughter I would have strangled him!

ROGER Sadly, David really didn't do much about it, Ken. But that made Tamar's brother Absalom even angrier. So, Amnon ended up getting killed by Absalom.

Remember what James 1 said about lust leading to death? We certainly see it in this case. Amnon died physically. But notice what happened immediately after he raped her. Does someone want to read from II Samuel 13:15-18?

JEREMY Sure. Just a minute. Let me find it... Okay...

"Then Amnon hated her with a very great hatred; for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, 'Get up, go away!' But she said to him, 'No, because this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you have done to me!' Yet he would not listen to her. Then he called his young man who attended him and said, 'Now throw this woman out of my presence, and lock the door behind her.'"

KEN Scoundrel!

GEORGE I can really understand what happened there. As most of you know, I had an affair 15 years ago. Even though I continued to lust after her, and we even had sex together, it didn't satisfy my lust. The longer it went on, I began to hate her and myself. The more she began to depend on me emotionally, the more I despised her.

ROGER Why do you suppose that happens, George?

GEORGE In my case, I know why. Because as a Christian, God wouldn't let me get away with it. It was sin. It was wrong. It was destroying my own family and her marriage. And I was miserable.

JEREMY Wow, George. I didn't know that about you.

GEORGE I don't go around telling everybody about it.

JEREMY Thanks for telling us. I see something in common between your story, George, and Roger's.

ROGER What's that?

JEREMY Both of you did things in secret. You didn't want anyone else to know. And you didn't think anyone would find out. George, you thought what happened in that bedroom would go nowhere else. Roger, you thought that too. But now, here you are talking about it.

PHIL That reminds me of something. I was out in Vegas for a conference a while ago. They had these billboards that said, "Whatever Happens Here Stays Here."

KEN The Good Book says, "Be sure your sin will find you out!"

ROGER Yes. There are always consequences to sin. The promise, "whatever happens here stays here" is definitely a lie, especially when talking about sin. Those deep dark secrets that we think no one will ever find out about have an unsettling habit of coming to the light. Just when we think we've succeeded, it gets discovered. The things we think no one will ever know become known.

GEORGE That was certainly the case for me. I thought my adultery was a secret. I imagined I was hiding it from everyone. Of course, God knew, and I suppose I had a vague notion that I wasn't hiding it from Him. But I never imagined my wife would become suspicious.

KEN That's what they all think!

JEREMY How did she find out about it?

GEORGE Oh, I think women sometimes have a sixth sense about this thing. Our marriage was in trouble. I was growing emotionally distant. I was spending more and more time away from home. I guess she put two and two together.

PHIL I'll bet she was devastated.

GEORGE You'll never know what I put that woman through... And my kids...

ROGER That's right. The consequences of sexual sin are devastating. That's why sexual sin—especially Internet pornography -- is such a danger in our society right now.

Well, look at the time. I think we better wrap things up for tonight. George, you asked earlier that we all do some more research on the severity of the Internet porn problem. I agree. Let's try to do that this week. In fact, maybe we could try to talk to one other person about it: ask someone if they think it's much of a problem; see what others say.

Okay?

OTHERS Sounds good.

ROGER Let's take some time to pray for one another...

(As the men bow their heads in prayer, most are glad this meeting is over. This is a subject they have never discussed in a group before. One man in particular is staring off into space while the others pray. His hands are sweaty and he is feeling light headed. Privately he asks himself, What is going on with me? Why am I reacting like this? Everything will be okay...He forces himself to relax.)

^a Pornography statistics 2003, www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html

STUDY GUIDE: Chapter One

There are a variety of ways you can use the lesson material in Celebrate the Jubilee—by individuals, by accountability partners, families or groups. You have permission to duplicate or distribute the materials freely for non-commercial use. Here are some suggestions for ways to get the most out of Chapter One. Feel free to pick and choose from among them. If you have ideas we haven't thought of, we'd appreciate it if you let us know.

FOR ONE

- Read through the lesson in the chapter.
- Think about the issue of Internet pornography in your own life. Have you ever struggled with pornography of any kind? If so, when did it begin?
- What did the lesson mean by “a secret life?” Do you have a secret life?
- Read James 1:14, 15 and note the word “lust.” Can you rewrite these verses putting them in your own words? Can you personalize them so that you insert the word “I” or “my?”
- In what areas do you struggle with lust?
- Do you agree with Roger's statement that the consequences of sexual lust are likely more destructive than other kinds of lust? Why or why not?

FOR GROUPS

- Distribute copies of the lesson or ask the others in the group to download it for themselves and read it prior to coming together.
- If you have at least three people in your group, have each person read one of the parts out loud in the group. Some may need to read more than one part. If you want, you can even “act” it out (but you don't have to).
- Discuss the concept of “secret life.” When does a secret life become a problem? Ask if anyone is willing to share their own story of trying to lead a secret life? What happened because of it?
- Ask someone to read James 1:14, 15 and note the word “lust.” Talk about the meaning of this passage of Scripture together. After reading it, discuss the word “lust.” Do you agree with the definition of lust given in the lesson? If not, why not?
- Ask if others agree with Roger's statement—that the consequences of sexual lust are likely more destructive than many other kinds of lust. Why or why not?

FOR EVERYONE

- Be sure to spend some time in prayer. Pray that God will teach you about integrity through these lessons. Ask God to open your eyes to see where you can improve in this area.
- If you are using the material in a group and any personal problems were shared, remind everyone about the importance of respecting the person's privacy and not sharing personal information outside the group.

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

CHAPTER TWO: WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

(Mid-October and the sun is setting on a cool night. The air has a perceptibly refreshing affect on everyone present. The men are assembled around a rectangular table in the Upper Room, which is brightly lit and energized with anticipation.)

ROGER Welcome back, men. Good to see you all tonight. Hope you all had a good week.

PHIL I see an empty seat. Where's Jeremy?

KEN I don't know.

JOHN I talked to him this afternoon, after I got out of work. He said he had other stuff going on tonight and couldn't make it.

ROGER Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. I hope nothing's wrong.

PHIL I'll give him a call tonight when I get done.

ROGER Good. I hope you guys have been thinking over what we talked about last week. Here's one of the questions I've been asking myself this week: "Is the pornography problem getting worse than ever or do we just hear about it more?" When I was young, it just wasn't that much of an issue—at least I didn't hear about it much if it was.

GEORGE Remember last week I told you, when I was in the service, we had pin up posters—but nothing like what is available now. Some of the stuff out there is just so raunchy. It seems to me it's getting worse.

PHIL I was a kid back in the 60s. I grew up in a Christian family. My parents were pretty strict. I knew porn magazines existed, but I would never be caught dead looking at them at the drug store like some of my friends.

I remember they had "girlie magazines" at the barbershop. I used to peek at them when I was there for my haircut. But I made sure no one else saw me. I'd put another magazine in front of it in case anyone saw me. I didn't want to get caught.

JOHN You sneaky devil!

PHIL Yeah, I was. We were really embarrassed about it back then. I don't know if more people are involved now. But I do know it's a lot more graphic - more hard-core than it used to be. I also know it's a lot easier to get a hold of. George, you were an adult in the Army before you ever saw porn.

KEN It used to be that you had to go somewhere to get it. Now, you just turn on that computer in your house. And you don't even have to pay anything. It's free!

ROGER I've found some statistics about that.

PHIL Here you go, George! Just what the doctor ordered.

ROGER Let me read this to you. In 1992, the average age of exposure to pornography was 15. I found a website by Family Safe Media with a survey that concluded that the average age of first Internet pornography is now 11, and the largest consumer age group of Internet pornography is 12 to 17 years old. And like Phil said, a lot of this is the hard-core stuff. The Feb. 17, 2005 edition of *USA Today* reported that incidences of child sexual exploitation have risen from 4,500 in 1998 to more than 112,000 in 2004^b.

JOHN What do they mean by "child sexual exploitation?"

ROGER Probably things like child molestation, sexual abuse, child pornography—any incident where the child becomes the target for sexual lust, acted out. Clearly, it does seem like the devastation in society is worsening. But also in the church...

PHIL I got to thinking about something that happened in my last church. I was the technology director there. The church had three computers—the pastor, the youth pastor and the secretary. The youth pastor is someone who I had mentored several years ago when he was still in the youth group. So I knew him really well. He's 23 years old and has been married for three years.

One day, about a year ago, I got a call from this organization that provides an Internet accountability program that we had installed on the church computers. The guy explained to me that our IP address was being used to view thousands of hard-core porn sites. Apparently, whoever was doing it was opening fake accounts in an attempt to work around the program.

KEN Phil, I haven't got the foggiest idea what you're talking about.

GEORGE Yeah, what is this IP address you're talking about?

PHIL You old coot! Think of it like your street address on your house. Everyone has one. It's how they know where to deliver your mail. The same is true on your computer. An IP address could either be the address of your computer when you connect with the Internet or, if you have a firewall—which I recommend—

KEN Hold it—firewall. You're losing me buddy!

PHIL OK, OK. I'll go really slow here. A firewall makes it so your IP address is anonymous. It's kind of like having a post office box for your address instead of your street address. When you send a letter to a PO Box, it doesn't go to your house but to the post office. That allows the receiver to be anonymous. A firewall on a computer does the same thing. Anyone whose computer is behind the firewall can stay anonymous. And at our church, all three computers were behind the firewall.

GEORGE So, it was the address of the firewall the program was seeing?

PHIL Exactly . . . Well, I was really shocked when I heard about this. I mean there are three computers behind this firewall—the pastor’s, the youth pastor’s and the secretary’s. So it was one of these computers being used to look at porn. The question was whose?

I asked the guy on the phone and he told me that all the usage was associated with the youth pastor’s account. The fake accounts were always made within minutes of a valid login on the youth pastor’s computer. It could have been someone else using his computer but we suspected it was really him.

ROGER I’m not sure I understand all that you said, Phil, but it sounds like the youth pastor should have been confronted with the facts.

PHIL Right. Well, to make a long story short, it *was* the youth pastor. And it turns out he had a porn problem for years. His wife had even known about it and didn’t know what to do. They were both relieved when the whole thing came out into the open.

JOHN So, what did the church do with him?

PHIL Even though the church offered to give him counseling, they couldn’t let him continue as the youth pastor. You can imagine what some of the church people would think if the youth pastor was doing Internet porn. So, he resigned.

ROGER What was the effect on the church?

PHIL Well, to be honest with you, that’s why we’re here at this church. Even though it seemed like such an obvious sin, there were a lot of people in the church who thought we had dealt too harshly. The church ended up splitting. We left, too, and came here.

KEN How could they possibly want to let someone like that off the hook?

PHIL Most people think Internet porn isn’t that bad a problem. I found a statistic. “USA Today says that 79% of adults say it’s OK for a wife or husband or boyfriend to reply to an instant message with a stranger of the opposite sex. 79% say it’s OK”—^c

KEN Hold on—instant message? What’s that?

PHIL You really are in the dark ages, Ken!

KEN I told you, I don’t have a computer. Never will. And the more I hear you talk about them the more convinced I am!

PHIL OK. “Instant messaging” is a program on computers where you can start up a conversation with someone else.

ROGER Ken, a little screen shows up on your computer that contains a typed message from someone else. I know. My son has been after me for a couple years to start using it.

PHIL And the trouble is, there's a way to open up your username to anyone. So you can start chatting with just about anyone anywhere.

JOHN A lot of my friends spend hours every day chatting with people they don't know—kind of hanging out together like people do at a bar, y'know? Looking for a good time.

ROGER That sounds like a dangerous feature—especially for kids.

PHIL Exactly! Internet predators love instant messaging and chat rooms because they can exploit unsuspecting kids. You can have some 45-year-old pervert telling a 14-year-old girl he's really a 13-year-old girl and that he wants to be her best friend. And you can imagine what could really happen then. But anyway, back to the statistic. What do you guys think about that number? 79% think it's no big deal to start up a conversation with a member of the opposite sex with someone they don't know.

GEORGE If you asked most people in our church if they thought it was wrong for men and women to flirt at work, what do you think they would say?

KEN I know what I would say—

GEORGE Yeah, we all know what you would say, Ken. But I suspect most people in churches don't think it's that big a deal. I think that's the same attitude reflected in Phil's statistic.

PHIL Right. And I think that explains why my old church split over this issue.

ROGER So, obviously this is a very divisive issue, if Internet pornography can split a church.

PHIL —And companies too. I found that something like 1,500 companies were surveyed and about 30% had terminated an employee for inappropriate use of the Internet while at work^d. That probably means Internet porn. I ran across another statistic. It's from *Focus on the Family*. Back in 2003 they surveyed families and concluded that nearly half of all families say that pornography is a real problem in their family^e.

ROGER It may even be higher. Don't forget my number from last week—that 70% have viewed Internet pornography in the last month. And I read somewhere recently that as many as 50% of pastors admit to struggling with Internet pornography^f.

KEN 50% of pastors! You've got to be kidding! If that's true then the church is in big trouble!

ROGER It could even be higher than that. Pastors are no different from other men. I'm sure there are many pastors and missionaries who have a problem but won't admit it in a survey like this. Do you remember the story in the news of Pastor Carmisson from First Christian Church across town?

JOHN Yeah, wasn't he the guy that ended up in jail for messing with a minor?

ROGER Yes. That's the way it ended up but that is not the beginning of the story.

I knew Pastor Carmisson. No one would have imagined there were any problems with his marriage or his family. They seemed like such a nice family. But his wife had known for years he had a pornography problem. What she didn't know is that he had had an affair with another woman for many years. She also didn't know that he was sexually molesting this other woman's teenage daughter.

At the trial it came out that his computer was filled with child pornography. And under oath he admitted that he attempted to act out the scenes from the child porn with the girl he molested. Pornography is what got him started.

GEORGE That's a pretty extreme example.

ROGER Yes. But there but for the grace of God go I.

GEORGE And I too, Roger. I wasn't criticizing your story, but it seems extreme.

ROGER I know, George. But men if it can have this effect on men in the pulpit—on men in the church—it certainly is imperative that we talk about it. Don't you think? And that we do something more than just talk about it!

KEN Well, all I can say is I'm glad I don't have a computer. I'm not part of this problem.

ROGER I hear what you're saying Ken. But we're all in this together. The underlying problem here is not *having a computer*. The underlying problem is not even the Internet pornography—although I'm certainly not minimizing the issue. The problem is deeper than all that. And it's a problem we all have.

KEN Sin!

ROGER Yes. Sin. But specifically, it's the problem of wanting to be king of my own life, of wanting to call all the shots, of putting my wants and desires first, before anyone and anything else. There are all kinds of sin struggles in the world. Some people have a problem with sinful anger or bitterness or stealing or adultery—like we've talked about. But underneath all of those sin struggles is something foundational to all sin; something that is so much a part of our human nature that we just assume it's the way we are supposed to be. Theologians call it "autonomous reason." We can just call it "pride."

JOHN Auto-what?

ROGER Autonomous reason. The word "autonomous" means "self-rule." It means we make the laws and then we live by them. So, autonomous "reason" means that my mind makes up the rules or laws—the moral code—by which I decide how to run my life. In short, pride.

The problem is God didn't design us to live this way. When we start making our own rules instead of following God's, we're in trouble. That's how Internet pornography becomes such a problem.

John, I know you were just asking a question, but when you said Internet pornography is “just pictures,” I’m afraid that’s a result of autonomous reason. I’m not criticizing you, OK?

JOHN I know—

ROGER I’m just using it as an example. And you’re right. Most people would agree with you. It’s not that big a deal to see some pictures of scantily clad women. It’s only when you act out your lusts that most people start to get concerned. But this isn’t God’s view. It’s man’s pride in action. God has a very different standard. We read it in Matthew 5:27, 28. Let’s look at it again, right now. In fact, I’m going to give you a little assignment. I want you to try and memorize these words this week. Would you be interested in what God thinks, not just what we think?

Who wants to read it?

GEORGE I’ll read it. *“You have heard that it was said, you shall not commit adultery, . . . but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

ROGER Read the next verses too. I’m not going to ask you to memorize them, but I want you to see how God looks at this danger:

GEORGE *“If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”*

JOHN That sounds serious—

ROGER It is, John. Because of our pride—because we like to make up our own rules to live by—we so easily minimize and trivialize these things. We say, “oh, it isn’t that bad.” But Jesus said if you have a lust problem—a problem with wandering eyes—it would be better that you have your eye balls gouged out and go through life blind than end up spending eternity in hell. Sin seems to have pleasure for a short time. But long term, it ends in death.

PHIL So, Roger, you want us to memorize that verse?

ROGER Yes, I do. In fact, I’m going to have several verses for you to memorize as we go through this.

KEN I don’t have much of a memory anymore, Roger. I don’t know—

PHIL Don’t you know, Ken, a memory is what you forget with

GEORGE I’m older than you, Ken. I’ll try if you try

KEN Oh, alright. I didn’t mean I wouldn’t try. But I’m just not very good at it—my wife says I’d forget my head if it wasn’t screwed on.

ROGER I believe memorizing and reciting God’s Word is one of the most important things we can do in conquering this problems of lust and pride. I’ll talk more about it next time. Right now we need to wrap up for the evening.

But in closing I’d like to ask you to do something. Please close your eyes for a few minutes so you’re not looking at anyone. Just look into your own heart. Let me ask you something from earlier in our discussion.

I mentioned to you that national statistics suggest 70% of men struggle with Internet pornography. That means seven out of ten. Ken said he doesn’t even have a computer. On the other hand, I admitted to you that I am one of those seven out of ten. After all, we’re all in this together. So, here’s the tough question.

What about you? Think about it now. Be honest. This is deadly serious stuff. Remember Jesus’ warning about wandering, lustful eyes. John, think about it. Are you one of the 70%?

JOHN (silence)

ROGER George? How about you?

GEORGE (silence)

ROGER Phil?

PHIL (silence)

ROGER And what about Jeremy?

JEREMY (absent)

(Roger’s last question unsettled the men greatly. The Upper-Room, which only an hour ago was full of energy and light, now seems ominous—even threatening. There isn’t much talk and banter as they leave. Most of the men are thinking about themselves and the places their eyes have gone. Roger is very concerned about Jeremy’s absence tonight.)

^b www.nationalcoalition.org/resourcesservices/stat.html

^c USA Today July 10, 2000

^d Websense Inc. Center for Internet Studies, year 2000

^e Focus on the Family, 2003

^f Christianity Today, Leadership Magazine survey, 2001

STUDY GUIDE: Chapter Two

There are a variety of ways you can use the lesson material in Celebrate the Jubilee—by individuals, by accountability partners, families or groups. You have permission to duplicate or distribute the materials freely for non-commercial use. Listed below are suggestions for ways to get the most out of Chapter Two. Feel free to pick and choose from among them. If you have ideas we'd appreciate hearing from you.

FOR ONE

- Read through the lesson in the chapter.
- Think about the statistics of Internet pornography use in the lesson. Do you think the problem is that serious? Why or why not? If not, are you willing to do some of your own research to draw different conclusions?
- Do you have some kind of Internet filter or accountability program on your computer? What has been your experience with it?
- Roger said that the root of most sin is wanting to be in charge of our own life—wanting to set our own rules and call all the shots—what he called pride. Do you agree with this? If so, what are some examples of this in your own life?
- Do you believe that memorizing scripture is an important practice for dealing with sin struggles in your life? When is the last time you memorized some scripture for this reason?

FOR GROUPS

- Distribute copies of the lesson or ask the others in the group to download it for themselves and read it prior to coming together.
- If you have at least three people in your group, have each person read one of the parts out loud in the group. Some may need to read more than one part. If you want, you can even “act” it out (but you don't have to).
- There were several statistics and statements about the seriousness of the Internet pornography problem in society today. Discuss these together. Do you agree or disagree with the way this lesson characterizes the problem?
- Ask if anyone has experience they could share with Internet filters or accountability programs. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of them.
- This lesson talked a lot about wanting to be king of our own lives—pride. Discuss ways in which this kind of pride makes a struggle with moral integrity much more difficult.
- Talk about the importance of Scripture in dealing with a sin struggle in our lives. Ask someone to read Psalm 119:9-11 and discuss what it means. What does it mean to “hide” or “treasure” God's Word in our hearts? When is the last time they memorized Scripture for this reason?

FOR EVERYONE

- Be sure to spend some time in prayer. Pray that God will teach you about integrity through these lessons. Ask God to open your eyes to see areas where you can improve in this area.
- If you are using the material in a group and any personal problems were shared, remind everyone about the importance of respecting the person's privacy and not sharing personal information outside the group.

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

CHAPTER THREE: I AM THE KING OF WHATEVER

(A dark October evening in Owosso—the clouds hang in suspended animation. The air is wet and stifling. Men arrive one at a time—all within 5 minutes of each other. They climb the stairs to the Upper-Room and assemble around the table. They exchange small-talk until Roger begins.)

ROGER Hello, men . . . Jeremy, I'm glad you're back with us. I hope everything is OK?

JEREMY Sure. I-I-a- couldn't make it last week . . . I had some stuff to do.

ROGER Well you made it this week. That's good.

KEN I had something happen this week, guys, and I'm really upset about it.

PHIL What's that, Ken?

KEN Some of you know my son-in-law—

ROGER Jeff?

KEN Yeah. Jeff. I could strangle him!

PHIL Why?

KEN My daughter, Julie, was cleaning under their bed two days ago and found a movie. She put it in the VCR. She couldn't believe what she was seeing. The stuff was—I can hardly even talk about it I'm so upset.

PHIL That's okay, Ken, we're here for you, Buddy...

KEN It was about these perverts—having sex together!
My son-in-law was watching this stuff!

JEREMY You're sure it was his?

KEN Of course, I'm sure! No one else would have that stuff...

ROGER Did Julie tell you about it, Ken?

KEN Yeah. She was totally devastated. She called her mom. She was beside herself. Crying—and she could hardly talk. We both went over there right away. About 30 seconds of the movie was all we needed to know what she was talking about.

JEREMY Maybe Jeff didn't really know what it was—Maybe he picked it up by mistake and was going to take it back.

KEN That's the craziest thing I ever heard!

ROGER Ken, Jeremy is just trying to get you to think clearly.

PHIL You need to settle down, Ken. We'll get through this.

KEN It was not some mistake. The title of the thing of the thing was...I can't even say those words!
I'm not afraid to tell you it's all I can do to keep from strangling him. And now, Julie's pregnant again. Gonna have another baby. And that—that *pervert*—is the father.

JOHN It's just a movie—

KEN It isn't just a movie! You guys don't get it! This is my daughter we're talking about. And that pervert is not fit to be a husband

I can't believe you guys . . . I, I, I can't stand this—

ROGER Ken, please sit down. Let's talk.

KEN I told you, there's nothing more to say—not if you're going to make all kinds of excuses for the jerk. And I thought you guys were my friends.

PHIL We are—

KEN Some friends . . . I'm out of here.

ROGER Ken, Ken, come back!

PHIL . . . Wow. . . That went well.

ROGER Oh, Ken. Ken.

GEORGE What can we do Roger?

ROGER I-I-I guess we need to pray for him—

JOHN —that he doesn't do anything stupid—

GEORGE Maybe I should go after him. See if I can settle him down some.

ROGER OK. OK . George, why don't you.

(There is a dark shadow over the men's group as they sit for a while in silence. Roger eventually bows his head and begins praying fervently for Ken and his family. Several others lead out in prayer also.)

- ROGER** Men. I had planned to go over some things from last Sunday's sermon. It was on the subject of repentance and I thought it would be helpful—but I don't know for sure—
- PHIL** I think you should go ahead with it. Maybe now more than ever.
- ROGER** Well, OK. Hopefully George can get a hold of him and rein him in.
- ROGER** We were studying II Corinthians 7:10, 11. Paul is talking about that word “repentance.” It’s a very important term in the Bible. It’s the basis for our salvation and it’s the basis for our victory over sin. Let’s read Paul’s words again. John? How would you like to read it for us?
- JOHN** Sure. Let me find and read it . . .
“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.”
- ROGER** So, what is going on in this passage? Do you remember?
- PHIL** I took notes, so let me see... *“Paul was contrasting two kinds of repentance . . . There is a repentance that leads to salvation—a good repentance; and one that leads to death; a bad repentance . . . The repentance that leads to salvation bears good fruit and the repentance that leads to death bears rotten fruit.”*
- ROGER** So, what does that really mean in our daily lives?
- JEREMY** Rotten fruit is when a person doesn’t acknowledge his sin, doesn’t admit what he’s doing is wrong.
- PHIL** I don’t think it’s really talking about the consequences of sin but about how a person’s heart reacts to the sin that’s there.
- ROGER** That's right, Phil. This passage is all about the heart.

Here is a chart I put together, based on this passage, contrasting the two kinds of repentance. Let’s take a look at this together. I think this speaks very directly to the problem of Internet pornography—and a host of other integrity challenges we face in our lives.

As we get into this passage, let’s remember the main point that Paul is discussing. I would summarize it like this: “When I try to be the king of my own life, it leads to sin and death. When I admit that God is the king of my life, and submit my heart and my desires to him, it leads to life.” This is what repentance is all about and illustrates the two kinds of fruit.

For example, notice that first word on the chart: “earnestness.” It can also be translated, “diligence” or “eagerness.” It has a sense of making it your purpose in life or your business in life to avoid the sin. That’s the good fruit. But there’s some bad fruit too. And this is what I’m especially concerned about. What’s the bad fruit on the chart?

The Fruit of Repentance

II Corinthians 7	Good Fruit	Rotten Fruit
<p>“Earnestness” (Gk. Spoude) Also: diligence, eagerness</p>	<p>Responding to my sorrow for sin by making diligent effort to avoid it.</p>	<p>Responding to my sorrow for sin by replacing it with other things.</p>
<p>“Eager to Clear” (Gk. Apologia) Also: defense, Reason, evidence.</p>	<p>Giving evidence through my actions of a change of life</p>	<p>Attempting to defend myself through the words that I speak</p>
<p>“Indignation” (Gk. Aganaktesis) Also: Displeasure, Affliction.</p>	<p>Hating the sin</p>	<p>Hating the sinner</p>
<p>“Alarm” (Gk. Phobos) Also: fear, terror</p>	<p>Fearing that I might offend God’s holiness</p>	<p>Fearing that I will experience the consequences of my actions</p>
<p>“Longing” (Gk. Epipothesis) Also: vehement desire, craving</p>	<p>Gratefulness for God’s plan in my life</p>	<p>Discontent with God’s plan for my life</p>
<p>“Zeal” (Gk. Zelos) Also: hot or fervent passion</p>	<p>Passionate crusade against the sin in my life and turning toward God for my deliverance.</p>	<p>Passionate crusade against sin (especially in others) relying on my own self-effort for deliverance</p>
<p>“Ready to see justice done” (Gk. Ekdikesis) Also: indignation, vindication</p>	<p>Willingness to suffer the consequences of sin desiring God’s holiness above all.</p>	<p>Wanting to avoid the consequences for my actions, blaming others for the sin/sorrow in my life</p>

JEREMY Umm, the bad fruit is “Responding to my sorrow for sin by replacing it with other things.” But isn’t that a good thing?

ROGER What do you mean?

JEREMY I mean, isn’t it OK to try to replace bad things with good things? I used to be addicted to cigarettes and we were told that if we chew gum when we felt the need to smoke, it would help us. So we were replacing a bad habit with a good one.

ROGER That’s not a bad thing, Jeremy. But that’s not what Paul wants us to see. If we focus too much on the outward behavior we will miss the issues of the heart. And what Paul wants us to see through this passage is that the condition of our heart is the most important in genuine repentance.

PHIL I used to smoke two packs a day. And it wasn’t enough for me just to quit smoking. I had to come to the point of realizing that it was destructive to my body—the body God made for me. Replacing smoking with chewing gum was a tool to help me but it wasn’t my primary motivation.

ROGER What about the second fruit? Paul says that the fruit of repentance is being “eager to clear.” What’s the good fruit?

JEREMY You have here, “Giving evidence through my actions of a change of life.” And the rotten fruit is, “Attempting to defend myself through the words I speak.”

ROGER So, what does this mean? John?

JOHN I’m not really sure . . .

ROGER Phil?

PHIL I guess it means “actions speak louder than words.” It’s not enough just to say, “I’m a Christian.” The proof is in the pudding.

ROGER That’s a good way of putting it. What about the rotten fruit? What is the evidence that this is not godly repentance?

PHIL Remember that youth pastor story I told you? He went to church every Sunday. He taught the youth group. If someone would have asked him if immorality was wrong he could have recited the Bible verses to prove it. He was leading a double life. He could tell you what was right, but he wasn’t doing it.

ROGER Exactly. How about the third fruit?

JEREMY “Indignation.”

ROGER When the apostle Paul used that word, he meant “to be greatly displeased or afflicted about something.” What does that mean when talking about sin? John?

JOHN I'm not really sure. I guess it means that I'm angry with myself because I'm sinning.

ROGER Not exactly. In fact, that's the bad fruit or rotten fruit of wrong repentance. Look at the chart again. The good fruit is that "I hate the sin," the bad fruit is that "I hate the sinner." What's the difference?

JEREMY The difference is that when I hate the "sinner," I'm mad at myself because of what I did. But I should really be mad at the sin itself. I should reject the sin but I tend to reject myself.

When my twelve-year-old son does something wrong, I correct him. I tell him he did something wrong. But I don't reject him because of it—kind of like God's love for me. God doesn't reject me just because I do something wrong.

ROGER Yes. And while that's true, Jeremy, we have to be careful we don't use that as an excuse to keep on sinning. It's true that God doesn't reject us because of our sin. But repentance doesn't stop here. Paul warns in Romans 6:1 that we should never continue sinning just because God's forgiveness and grace is there for us. Let's keep reading. What's the next one?

JEREMY "Alarm."

PHIL When a fire alarm goes off, it gets everybody's attention. Everybody stops what he's doing. That's exactly what happened when Ken's daughter found that x-rated movie under the bed!

ROGER There are two general categories of fear or alarm in the Bible. There's the fear of the Lord and there's the fear of man. Paul says that the good fruit of repentance is a proper fear and reverence for God. The bad fruit is being afraid of what others might think about us or do to us if they knew what we were involved in.

The next one, Jeremy?

JEREMY "Longing." Good fruit means that we have gratitude for God's plan in our lives; bad fruit means we are discontent.

ROGER The good fruit of repentance means that we "long" or "yearn" just to be close to God. We trust Him, even though we may not like our circumstances. The bad fruit means that we're discontent. We think it's unfair that God would put us through this. The Bible uses the word "delight" to describe this. The word means "*what brings a smile to our face;*" or "*what brings light to our eyes.*" Psalm 37 says that you should "*delight yourself in the Lord.*" So what makes you guys smile? What brings light to your eyes?

PHIL I'd like to see that BMW sitting in my garage when I get home! That would make me smile.

ROGER Unfortunately, that's often what it takes to make us smile. But what should really make us smile, Phil?

PHIL Just knowing that my greatest problem in life has been solved—

ROGER And that is?

PHIL The sin that separates me from God. That’s my greatest problem. And the Bible says that God has solved it. That’s the “gospel,” the whole message of the Bible. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price that was on my head! *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God!”*

ROGER That’s right. Romans 3:23. That’s the gospel. And don’t forget, He didn’t just die on the cross. He’s not in the grave anymore. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

What about the sixth fruit of repentance, Jeremy?

JEREMY “Zeal.”

ROGER Notice this, guys. The fifth one, “longing” has a passive component to it. It’s something we’re waiting for. Zeal is more active. It refers to something boiling away inside. The good fruit?

JEREMY Crusading against the sin in my life; looking to God for deliverance—

ROGER If we are truly repentant, it will show up in us by our hot, boiling, fervent desire *to deal with this sin*—and we will realize that God’s the only one who can make that happen. The rotten fruit?

JEREMY Passionate crusade against sin (especially in others) relying on my own self-effort for deliverance.

ROGER Do you see the difference here?

JEREMY I think so. Back when I smoked, I knew I was hurting my body. It’s God’s temple. I knew I had to give it up. And I did. And I haven’t taken a puff since. I tell the guys at work, “Don’t keep putting that stuff in your body!”

PHIL Well guys, forgive my saying so, but that sounds more like the bad fruit of repentance rather than the good fruit. We are supposed to crusade against sin. But we know that God is the only one who can help us. When you tell the guys at work not to put that stuff in their bodies, it sounds like you’re relying on self-effort.

ROGER In our crusades against sin we have to be so careful of what the Bible calls “self-righteousness.” Self-righteousness means that I’m too quick to take credit for the good things I’ve done in my life, and I forget that it was God who made me able to do them.

Jeremy it was good that you quit smoking. But make sure you don’t give the impression that you did it yourself because you are such a strong person.

JEREMY I guess I see that—we have to be careful not to be judgmental. And a lot of the guys at work aren’t Christian, so I don’t want to sound self-righteous.

ROGER Sounds like you guys get the gist of that one. How about the last fruit? Jeremy?

JEREMY “Ready to see justice done.”

PHIL I’m not sure I follow that one.

ROGER Let’s think of it in terms of “consequences for actions.” The good fruit means I not only take responsibility for my own sinful actions but that I am willing to accept the consequences. So, my “readiness to see justice done” means I am not going to shift responsibility or blame to someone else.

The bad fruit of ungodly repentance means that when I think about my sin, I look for other people to blame, or I blame it on my circumstances. Wherever I look, it’s not my fault.

ROGER Instead of taking responsibility ourselves—

JEREMY We blame others.

ROGER Exactly. This reminds me of something the person I used to be . . . George—Ken!

GEORGE Hi Roger. We're back.

ROGER I'm so glad. Ken. I'm so sorry we let you down. Will you please forgive us?

PHIL I guess we were getting the cart before the horse—a bit too quick to preach at you.

GEORGE Ken?

KEN You guys are my friends. I'm sorry for running out on you. I was just so upset—

ROGER We know. You don't have to apologize—

KEN Yes. Yes I do. It was very immature of me. I guess I have some pretty bad attitudes right now.

ROGER You know, Ken, while you were gone we were talking about repentance. I think all of us need to examine our hearts right now. One of the themes that come through in Scripture is that repentance always begins with a humble and honest evaluation of the sin in our own hearts. It means that, in Jesus’ words in Matthew 7:1, we don’t pull out the speck of dust (the little sin) in our neighbor’s eye until we’ve first pulled out the log (the big sin) in our own.

I think we should have spent some time pulling splinters out of our eyeballs before we started telling you what to do.

KEN Yeah. Well, I always have been a hot-head. George, thanks for coming after me.

GEORGE That's what friends are for.

KEN Sometimes I get so angry. It just comes at me like a freight train barreling down the tracks. And I don't feel like I can do anything about it.

ROGER You're really hurt and angry with your son-in-law. He has hurt your daughter. We would all be angry in your situation.

KEN Oh, I know. But, guys, when I get angry—it's—it's sometimes scary—like I have lost control.

ROGER Anger is a real problem for some of us.

KEN Oh, it's not just a problem, Roger. It's a sin. I know it. I just don't feel like I can help myself.

ROGER Have you struggled with Jeff over other things also?

KEN Yeah, I suppose I have. We never thought he was good enough for our Julie. And this just proves it! He's said things to me that have made my blood boil. One time we got into such a shouting match I threw him out of the house and told him I never wanted to see him again!

ROGER Have you ever tried to forgive him?

KEN Oh, Roger. That's what's so hard! I mean, I can't just let him off the hook.

ROGER Of course not. No one here would say Jeff should get off the hook. Jeff was wrong. His actions were wrong. There must be consequences. But, Ken, what's inside your own heart?

KEN It's a pretty ugly place right now.

ROGER What about Julie? What has she been feeling? Men, give me some words to express how Julie probably feels right now?

JEREMY How 'bout violated?

GEORGE Betrayed. Suspicious.

JOHN Probably angry.

PHIL Alone. Insecure.

ROGER Right. Let me add another word. "Trapped."

Ken, would you agree that Julie feels all these things?

KEN And more.

ROGER How about you? You've admitted that you have a real problem with anger toward Jeff? Do you feel trapped also?

KEN Yes . . .

ROGER Ken, I'm going to write a word on the board here that I don't know if you've seen before. The word is "JUBILEE." Does anyone know what that means?

GEORGE When I was a boy scout...
PHIL —Wow, you were a boy once?

GEORGE Very funny—when I was a boy scout we went to a scout jubilee one year. It was a big celebration where troops from all over the country came together for a week of fun.

ROGER Yes. And they got that idea of "jubilee" from someplace else. Does anyone know?

JEREMY I don't know.

ROGER Well, it goes way back, thousands of years to a practice in Bible times.

In ancient Israel, the Year of Jubilee was a time when slaves were set free from their slavery, when debtors were released from their debts. Imagine how a slave would feel when the Year of Jubilee came around and he was finally set free from his captivity.

I'll talk more about it in a few weeks. But I wanted to introduce the concept to you today. What Julie really needs—and what Jeff needs—is to experience a "Jubilee" right now; she needs to experience freedom from the feelings and the habits that are trapping them. And Ken, I say this with all love, but you need to experience freedom as well. You're really hurt; you're angry; you're upset. You want revenge. I understand that. But those feelings, if they continue, will enslave you to bitterness. Ken, you also need Jubilee. And then, you'll be ready to help Jeff and Julie.

This relates to what we were talking about last week. Jeremy, you weren't here last week when we talked about the numbers. 70% of guys—even Christian guys—have struggled with Internet pornography. Obviously, Jeff has struggled with it. And it has had a severe impact on him and his wife, as well as Ken, here.

It's right here in our own group, guys. The effects of sin are not always obvious. Jeff is part of the statistics, but we all are. Last time I went around the group and asked each of you if you were struggling with pornography. No one said anything. But, I've got an idea. You guys are reluctant to talk about it openly. And I understand that. But we need to make sure we are free ourselves. We too need a jubilee. So let's do something right here, right now.

Let's all stand up and get in a circle. Close your eyes.

Now, there are six of us here.

What I'd like you to do is close your eyes and take the hands of the guys next to you. That's right, make a circle. Now keep your eyes closed.

If that 70% is accurate, it means that among us guys, four of us have struggled with Internet pornography in the last month. In other words, between you and the two guys you are holding hands with, two of you have this struggle. I want to expand this beyond Internet pornography, however, *to any* kind of sexual struggle. I don't know if Jeff has a problem with the Internet but we know he has a struggle with lust . . . And which one of us doesn't?

Think about it! Be honest . . .

If you have struggled with Internet pornography in the last month, or have had some major battles with sexual sin, would you have enough guts to squeeze the hand of the guys you're standing next to? Do it . . . if you have had a struggle like that, squeeze both of your hands.

Now, I don't know if some of you squeezed a hand or not. But I do know this. If you didn't squeeze any hands there can only be two reasons: either you've overcome your struggle or you don't have enough courage to admit it. It's that simple.

I also know this, if you don't have a problem, statistically speaking, the guys on either side of you do. And if they didn't squeeze any hands it's because they're living a lie.

Think about that, men! Jeremy? John? George? Phil? Ken? Who is on the throne of your life right now? Who is the king? Who is calling the shots? Is it you? Or is it God? What kind of fruit are you bearing in your life right now? I pray that we are all bearing the "good fruit of repentance." And if we are, it will show itself in the seven qualities we talked about tonight . . .

ROGER

I want you guys to know you can talk to me anytime about this stuff. Maybe you're not ready to admit things now. But if you get home and realize you're living a lie, don't put it off. You need a Jubilee! Call me. You know my heart. I'm not going to tell anyone else what you've done. I promise that I will only try to help you and give you the tools you need to battle the sin. It will be confidential. But don't wait. You're not only hurting yourself. You're also hurting each other.

(As the group dispersed, Phil, Ken and Roger huddled to weep together, exchange some hugs, and pray for Jeff. Ken went home with much to think about—not only his son-in-law, but also himself.)

STUDY GUIDE: Chapter Three

There are a variety of ways you can use the lesson material in Celebrate the Jubilee—by individuals, by accountability partners, families or groups. You have permission to duplicate or distribute the materials freely for non-commercial use. Here are some suggestions for ways to get the most out of Chapter Three. Feel free to pick and choose from among them. If you have ideas to improve this study, we'd be happy to hear from you.

FOR ONE

- Read through the lesson in the chapter.
- What are the two kinds of fruit of repentance described in the lesson? In a Bible, read the passage in II Corinthians 7:10, 11 again with the chart in front of you. Do you understand how this section of scripture contrasts the two kinds of fruit of repentance?
- Think about ways these two kinds of fruit have been grown in your life.
- Have you ever reacted to someone else's sin like Ken did? If so, how could or should you have handled it?
- Roger introduced the word “jubilee” to the group. Do some research on this word as used in the Bible. Do you agree that everyone in the story needed to experience some kind of jubilee? What about yourself?

FOR GROUPS

- Distribute copies of the lesson or ask the others in the group to download it for themselves and read it prior to coming together.
- If you have at least three people in your group, have each person read one of the parts out loud in the group. Some may need to read more than one part. If you want, you can even act it out (but you don't have to).
- Print out copies of the Two Fruits of Repentance chart from the lesson and distribute them to each one in the group. After reading II Corinthians 7:10, 11 discuss the chart together and ask for personal examples of each type of fruit.
- Ask the group to consider how they would deal with the situation that presented itself with Ken if it happened here. How might they handle it differently?
- Talk about the word “jubilee.” Assign someone to do some research about the Bible's teaching on jubilee and be prepared to share it with the group next time.
- Discuss whether they agree that everyone needs to experience some kind of jubilee?

FOR EVERYONE

- Be sure to spend some time in prayer. Pray that God will teach you about integrity through these lessons. Ask God to open your eyes to see areas where you can improve in this area.
- If you are using the material in a group and any personal problems were shared, remind everyone about the importance of respecting the person's privacy and not sharing personal information outside the group.

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

CHAPTER FOUR—BUSTED

(Roger's house is located in a nineteenth-century neighborhood—a peaceful section of town, south of the downtown area. Roger has opened the window in his study—a pure and refreshing breeze ruffles the curtain and fills the room with the smells of autumn. Roger sits in his favorite lounge chair with his feet up quietly reading the newspaper when the phone rings . . .)

ROGER Hello? This is Roger.

KATE Hi, this is Kate. Jeremy's wife! Sorry to call you at home...

ROGER That's perfectly fine, Kate. How are you?

KATE Well, not very good, actually.

ROGER What's wrong?

KATE It's about Jeremy. I need some help.

ROGER Tell me about it.

KATE Let's see. I'm not really sure how to say this...

ROGER That's OK, Kate. Take your time. Why don't you tell me what's been going on.

KATE I, um, . . . A couple of weeks ago, I walked into Jeremy's office and it must have startled him . . .

He . . .He w-w-was away from his computer . . .

When I came in, he ran back to his desk. He stood in front of the monitor like he didn't want me to see it.

I couldn't believe it. He was looking at some pictures of—

ROGER Bad pictures, Kate?

KATE Yeah. Really bad pictures.

I asked him what he was doing and he said, "Oh that. That's just a pop up."

I wanted to know why it was still on his screen when he was away from it.

He got angry and told me it was just a pop up; that it was no big deal and I shouldn't jump to conclusions.

But it was a bad picture! It was some woman—showing everything—

ROGER Oh, Kate. I'm so sorry.

KATE I wanted to believe him. I really did. But I couldn't stop thinking about that image on the screen. And what he was looking at . . . And how he tried to cover up the monitor . . . I have hardly slept at all this week thinking about it. What's going on? What's happened to Jeremy?

ROGER Kate. I really don't know for sure. But can I ask you some questions?

KATE Sure.

ROGER Has he ever had a problem with pornography, as far as you know?

KATE Not that I know of. But in the last couple of weeks I've been thinking about things he's done and it makes me wonder.

ROGER For example?

KATE Last year I wanted to get an Internet filter on the computer so we could keep an eye on what Little Jeremy was doing. He's only 12 years old, but I was worried. When I talked to Jeremy about it, he said, "No way. Those things just mess up your computer. They slow it down and it doesn't work right." I was pretty determined so he finally agreed. But he wasn't too happy about it.

Now, I'm wondering if he didn't want it because of what he's looking at . . .

ROGER Kate, it's interesting that this is coming up now. Think back to a couple weeks ago . . . Jeremy didn't show up at our Men's Group. He told one of our guys that he had some things to do around the house. Do you remember what he was up to that night?

KATE Well. Let's see. Two weeks ago . . . Oh, well. That was the day I found him in his office. That's the last thing he said when he left the house, that he was going to Men's Group. I thought he was there. I was glad he was going after what happened.

You mean he wasn't at Men's Group?

ROGER No, Kate. But let's be careful. Maybe there's another explanation. I need to talk to Jeremy about all this. Do you think he would come and talk to me?

KATE Oh, I doubt it. I've told him he needs to get some help—I mean, if he really does have a problem.

ROGER He does need help, Kate. But I think it would be best if he came to me rather than I go to him, if you see my point.

KATE I'll talk to him again about it. I'll tell him he must get some help.

ROGER Kate, please understand this: I will be praying and if you need to talk some more call—anytime. OK?

KATE OK. Thanks.

ROGER I'll talk to you later.

Oh, Jeremy, Jeremy, where are you?

TWO DAYS LATER...

(Roger's house, mid-morning. Roger is preparing for Men's Group in the study and his wife is out running errands. Roger hears the door-bell ring. He peers through the window—a perfect view of the front door, which is four feet away. It's Jeremy, shuffling his feet on the front porch, his hands in his pockets, and then Roger notices his eyes, his face—a portrait of melancholy and dejection. He opens the door.

ROGER I'm glad to see you, Jeremy. What's going on?

JEREMY I had to come. It's Kate. She's going crazy—screaming and carrying on like some maniac! She told me if I didn't come and talk to you she was leaving!

ROGER What's been happening?

JEREMY The last two weeks have been terrible. It's like we're arguing all the time.

ROGER Over what?

JEREMY I don't know. Stupid things. I've been spending extra time at the office. She's upset about that. She says I'm not there for Little Jeremy like I should be. I don't know . . . Just crazy things.

ROGER Give me some more examples. What kinds of things?

JEREMY She's crying all the time. She's ignoring me. She won't even sleep with me - says she needs some space.

ROGER I see. Can I ask you a personal question?

JEREMY Sure.

ROGER Last week at Men's Group, when I asked you guys to squeeze the hand of the guys you're next to if you struggle with sexual sin, did you do it?

JEREMY Umm. No.

ROGER Why not?

JEREMY I guess, 'cause I don't have a problem with it.

ROGER I see. Can you do something for me? I found this test online. I was going to give it to the guys at Men's Group next time. Anyone can take it. I was wondering if you would take it?

JEREMY Well, ah... I'll try.

ROGER Here, you can get on my computer and take the test and I will check back with you in a little while... <http://yearofjubilee.org/>

JEREMY I can't do this.

ROGER What do you mean?

JEREMY This test . . . I can't do it. I-I-I haven't been totally honest with you.

I can't pretend . . . I-um-I—see! From the first few questions—oh, man. This is so bad.

ROGER What's bad, Jeremy? What are you thinking? Be honest. No more games, alright? How long have you known you've had a problem with pornography?

JEREMY How long?

ROGER Yes. When was your first experience with it? I'll bet you remember it just like yesterday . . .

JEREMY How did you know that? Yeah, I remember.

I was 12 years old. Visiting my uncle's house. I was looking in his closet for something and found some magazines. I had never seen anything like that before. I was curious like any kid would be. I spent a few minutes looking through it. But for a 12 year old, back then, it was pretty disgusting stuff. I didn't look at another magazine like that for a long, long time.

ROGER How long?

JEREMY Probably not until I was 29.

ROGER And how old are you now?

JEREMY 33.

ROGER So, what happened four years ago?

JEREMY I was sitting at my computer at work and was doing a web search for images for a report I was working on, and I typed the word "coffee" in the web browser—

ROGER Coffee?

JEREMY Yeah, I was putting together a proposal for a new coffee service at work—

So anyway, I pulled up all these sites. I went to the first one on the list, and you're not going to believe it, but it was a porn site—

ROGER With coffee?

JEREMY Coffee didn't have anything to do with it. They just used that search term to get people to open the page.

ROGER Wow.

JEREMY Yeah. Well, over the next few weeks I couldn't get that picture out of my mind. And, like you said happened to you, I kept looking at that web address and my curiosity got the best of me—more than once.

ROGER So, let me guess, you started looking for other sites?

JEREMY Yeah. I guess so. It got so I was looking for them more and more. I could hardly control it. It was the first thing I would do when I got to work. At first, it was just for a few minutes. But over the next months, I was spending more and more time.

ROGER How did all this affect your work performance?

JEREMY Well, a few months ago, my supervisor caught me looking at a porn site during my break. He told me if he ever found me doing that again on company time I would be looking for another job.

ROGER So, that forced you home?

JEREMY Yeah, I'm afraid so. I learned pretty quickly how to hide it from Kate. A couple of clicks and—poof—the search history is gone. It's not hard.

ROGER This is a *very* personal question, Jeremy, but did you ever visit any cybersex sites?

JEREMY Yeah.

ROGER Did you ever chat or instant message someone about sex?

JEREMY Yeah. I'm sorry . . .

ROGER Did you ever masturbate after looking at sex sites?

JEREMY mmmmm . . .

ROGER I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.

JEREMY Yes. Yes. I feel so terrible.

ROGER So, that affected your relationship with Kate, didn't it?

JEREMY I-I-I guess so . . . I hadn't really thought about it that way. Yeah, but she didn't know any of this!

ROGER But it did affect your relationship, and you began to notice it during the past two weeks. You said she wouldn't sleep with you?

JEREMY Yeah. Yeah, you're right.

ROGER Clearly, there is a serious problem here, Jeremy. I'm just thankful that we're talking about it.

JEREMY In a strange sort of way, I am too. I didn't want to. I feel pretty crummy. But having talked about it with you, I feel a little better about it.

ROGER How much does Kate know about this?

JEREMY I don't know.

ROGER I think she knows more than you realize.

JEREMY Oh Roger . . .

ROGER Jeremy, I think you and Kate need help. I'm willing to help you anyway I can.

JEREMY What can we do? Kate sounds like she's ready to leave me.

ROGER Jeremy, I don't think it's hopeless. Not yet. Not if you get some serious help. Remember that word "jubilee" we talked about at Men's Group?

JEREMY Yeah.

ROGER That's what you both need. You need a time of jubilee.

JEREMY Like Ken's son-in-law . . . I guess I'm no better than him, am I?

ROGER Kate needs a jubilee too. You both need to be set free. You need jubilee from the pornography problem and the deception. Kate needs it from the fear, the mistrust and the potential bitterness in her attitude toward you.

JEREMY Bitterness?

ROGER Yes, I'm afraid so. This is no small matter between you two. I've seen marriages shipwrecked over much smaller things than this.

JEREMY But it's just pictures!

ROGER Jeremy. It's not just pictures! You know that. We talked about that at Men's Group. Kate trusted you. She committed her life to you. Remember how at your wedding you promised to love, cherish and protect her? When Kate found out about your sin problem, do you think she felt loved, cherished and protected?

JEREMY No, I guess not.

ROGER In fact, she is afraid. She's afraid you don't find her attractive. She's probably afraid that you're going to leave her for another woman. She may even be afraid that your problem with pornography may affect the children.

JEREMY No way! This has nothing to do with the kids. I would never hurt them!

ROGER Jeremy . . . You say that. But how is Kate supposed to know? How do I know? How do you really know? With all the lies and secrecy you've been involved in for the past four years, can you honestly tell me we *should* trust you?

JEREMY I know I've got a problem. I need help. I'll do what I have to do. I just don't know if I can do it. This thing has really got a hold of me.

ROGER I'm glad you realize that. It does have a hold of you. And you're right; you can't do it—not by yourself. You must have God's help.

JEREMY You know, when we were talking about the rotten fruit of repentance at Men's Group the other night, some of that stuff really hit home. I just didn't want to admit it.

ROGER Jeremy, the way back is hard but it's not complicated.

JEREMY What do you mean?

ROGER It's hard because it's going to be one of the toughest challenges you've ever faced. But it's really pretty simple. There are three things you have to do. That's all.

The first is repentance. When you go home tonight I want you to look over that chart we discussed—on the Good Fruit of Repentance.

JEREMY And I guess I better start memorizing the Scripture verses too.

ROGER Definitely. The second thing is confession. We haven't talked about that at Men's Group yet. But it so happens that before you got here today I was working on that lesson. Let me show you what I came up with.

I've been studying one of the most tragic stories in the Bible. It's the story of David and Bathsheba . . . I'm sure you know it?

JEREMY Oh, yeah. Since I was a kid. I know all the Bible stories.

ROGER So, you remember how David was out walking on his roof one evening and peeked over into his neighbor's yard and saw his neighbor's wife taking a bath. She was totally unclothed. Rather than look away in respect and embarrassment, what did David do?

JEREMY He kept looking.

ROGER Not only that. But he sent one of his servants over immediately and ordered her to come to the royal palace. After all, he was the king. And at that time he had forgotten who was the real King of his life. The scripture doesn't give all the sordid details and that's just as well. But we can imagine that David didn't waste any time.

JEREMY Committing adultery.

ROGER Right. And as you know, he not only did that. Shortly after that, Bathsheba found out she was pregnant. So, David did some quick calculations and decided he better make it look like it was her husband's child. The trouble is her husband—

JEREMY Was Uriah. One of David's loyal soldiers . . . Away in battle.

ROGER That's right. So David had Uriah brought home from the front lines and tried to work it out so Uriah would have sex with Bathsheba.

JEREMY But Uriah refused, saying it wasn't right for him to do so while the other soldiers were away in battle . . . So David had him put back on the front lines, leading a charge, and ultimately getting him killed.

ROGER Right. You do know your Bible stories, Jeremy! So, you know all this. Now, do you recall how God dealt with David?

JEREMY Yeah, David married Bathsheba but when the baby was born—I think the baby ended up dying—

ROGER Right. But there's something else I want you to see with me. It's how God dealt with David himself—even before the baby died.

In the story, found in II Samuel 12, God speaks to the Prophet Nathan in some kind of vision, telling him what David had done. So far, David thought he had succeeded in keeping the whole thing a secret.

JEREMY Kind of like me.

ROGER Yeah, I guess you could say that. He thought no one knew. But God knew, and now Nathan knew. And so, Nathan approached the King and exposed his secret sin. David didn't defend himself. He didn't lie about it. He didn't have Nathan killed, which he could have done as a king in those days. David admitted his sin. And sometime shortly thereafter, he wrote a hymn or poem about the whole thing. It's found in Psalm 51.

JEREMY Oh—I always wondered about that.

ROGER Yes. Psalm 51 begins,
*“Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your loving kindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions—”*

JEREMY What are transgressions?

ROGER The word transgressions just means violations of the law. David said, “Blot them out.” He went on to say,

“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity—”

The word means uncleanness, something that makes our hearts filthy.

“And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight . . .”

This is one of the most powerful prayers of confession in the Bible. And when I say that after *repenting* of your sin of Internet pornography, you need to *confess* it—this is what I mean.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this verse. But I especially want to focus on that last phrase.

“Against You [God], You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight . . .”

How does that strike you, Jeremy?

JEREMY I guess it seems kind of strange. I mean, didn’t he sin against Bathsheba by committing adultery with her? And what about Uriah, her husband? He sinned against him by killing him! How come he says that?

ROGER Exactly. This is what I want you to see. This is one of the most important things to understand about confession of sin. As bad as our sins against others are, that’s nothing in comparison to what it means to God.

David wasn’t minimizing the effects of his sin on the people he wronged. And as we read later in the story of his kingdom, this was only the beginning of trouble. The consequences of this one transgression went farther than he could ever have imagined. Some historians believe this one sin was at the root of the ultimate civil war that divided Israel from Jerusalem some 100 years later.

So, this was a terrible thing David did to people. But what he did to God was even worse.

Jeremy, when you realize how your sin affects your wife, your kids, me—that is one thing. But when you really come to grips with how it impacts your relationship with God—how God feels about it. Well, that’s when you will truly understand confession.

JEREMY Wow! I guess I hadn't ever really thought much about how God feels when I was sinning.

ROGER Do you realize that every time you looked at one of those images on the screen, every time you went into a chat room and carried on cybersex with another person—every time you masturbated while fantasizing about some other woman—God was looking over your shoulder. It's like you were forcing the most holy, perfect God to look at those same things.

How would you feel if you walked in on Little Jeremy and saw him looking at some of those pictures you were seeing?

JEREMY I haven't wanted to even think about stuff like that.

ROGER You must, Jeremy, because the statistics show that he will struggle with it more than you do, especially if you continue to struggle. Your chains must be broken so that you can show your son the experience of jubilee.

But what's even worse, if Little Jeremy has been looking at those sites, then he is doing the same thing that you and King David have done—forcing God to look at them too!

This is what David came to understand. Somehow, he came to the knowledge that he not only sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah and others, but at that very moment he was committing adultery with another man's wife, the God of heaven was being forced to watch the whole thing.

God made sex in marriage to be such a beautiful and holy thing. When a husband and wife come together and share their deepest affections and intimacy with pure hearts, it is a wonderful thing. God made sex! He wants us to enjoy it.

But that's not what David was doing, is it? This was the most vile and reprehensible of things—and David was forcing God to watch the whole sordid affair. Imagine buying an x-rated pornographic video and forcing the rest of your family to watch it.

JEREMY I-I-I can't even imagine.

ROGER That's what David realized. He had made God watch the whole thing. And that's what he confessed. Worse than the adultery and the murder was taking God off the throne of his life and putting himself and his sexual lusts upon it.

JEREMY Oh, man. I've lost track of the time. I really need to get home. But I promise I will start working on things with my wife. I think I understand what I have to do.

ROGER It's not going to be easy, Jeremy. Kate's trust has been broken. Just because you are facing your sin doesn't mean she's going to forget about it right away and all will be back to normal. This may take a long, long time.

JEREMY I understand.

ROGER I hope you do. And I'm not trying to be harsh, but I'm not sure you can understand. Not yet. But I think you're trying to understand. And that's a good start. We have talked about repentance and confession. The third thing I mentioned to you is covenant. We'll talk about these in the next men's group. You have a lot to pray and think about now.

JEREMY Yeah, I think I have some things to say to the guys, too.

ROGER I'll leave that one up to you, Jeremy. When you're ready, let me know.

(Jeremy begins to weep again, this time with tears of relief. Jeremy and Roger pray together. Then Roger walks Jeremy to the door. As Jeremy leaves, Roger inhales crisp autumn air. He exhales, and the feeling is almost antiseptic—humbling, and very nearly pure.)

STUDY GUIDE: Chapter Four

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FOR ONE

- Read through the lesson in the chapter.
- What do you think about the spouses, family or friends of those who are struggling with Internet pornography? What kinds of emotions do they deal with? Do you think Kate accurately represents what a wife would feel when she discovered her husband's secret life?
- If you are married, think about how a secret life would affect your spouse.
- Think about how Roger confronted Jeremy in the story. Could you do that with someone you suspected was living a secret life? What if you were in Jeremy's position? How would you respond?
- Take the Internet pornography quiz and score it. What does it say about you? Is this accurate?

FOR GROUPS

Distribute copies of the lesson or ask the others in the group to download it for themselves and read it prior to coming together.

If you have at least three people in your group, have each person read one of the parts out loud in the group. Some may need to read more than one part. If you want, you can even act it out (but you don't have to).

Discuss how a sin struggle like Internet pornography affects spouses, family and friends. Discuss how accurately Kate represents a spouse in a situation like this.

Talk about how Roger confronted Jeremy in the story. Is that how it should have been done? If group members think it should have been done differently, ask them for specific suggestions.

If group members are willing, talk about their own sin struggles and how they have been exposed by others. Also, take the Internet pornography quiz and score it. Depending on the level of openness in your group, you may be able to discuss test results. If not, at least mention the need to get help if their scores are elevated.

FOR EVERYONE

- Be sure to spend some time in prayer. Pray that God will teach you about integrity through these lessons. Ask God to open your eyes to see areas where you can improve in this area.
- If you are using the material in a group and any personal problems were shared, remind everyone about the importance of respecting the person's privacy and not sharing personal information outside the group.

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

CHAPTER FIVE: HELP! I NEED SOMEBODY

(As more and more men in the Group came to grips with the sexual temptations in their lives, there were moments of great emotion. Roger was encouraged on many levels. But something was still missing—not from the group as much as from his own heart. With that awareness, he came to the Men’s Group one night with a deep sense of heaviness and seriousness. As the men came into the Upper Room that evening they could sense the gravity of the situation. It was like walking into a funeral parlor. They spoke but in more hushed tones. There wasn’t the normal teasing and back slapping. Roger began to speak.)

ROGER Guys, I’m convinced that pornography is a much greater problem than we’ve realized. It’s apparent to me that Internet pornography is the greatest lifestyle issue facing the church in this decade. I know that’s a strong statement, but I think our experiences even in this group—not to mention the statistics we’ve seen—have proven that.

It’s devastating to the church when a staff member or pastor is found involved in pornography. We’ve seen how it can split a church wide open. It brings disillusionment to people who trusted and followed that leader. The whole church experiences a sense of betrayal.

And that’s not to mention that the person will probably lose his job. His family is now in shambles. And the church will have to find someone else to fill that position.

Think about those families for a minute. Think about their wives. Most Christian women don’t really grasp the hold that pornography can have on a man. On the other hand, more and more women are getting involved in pornography. In my research I’ve discovered when women get involved in Internet pornography it’s usually for different reasons—for companionship, because of loneliness, to make themselves feel special—but the number is growing, especially in chat rooms and other forms of cyber-sex.

The sin of Internet pornography is damaging churches, it’s ruining families, and it’s wreaking havoc in men’s personal relationships with God.

I told you guys a few weeks ago about my experience with Internet pornography. I didn’t tell you many of the details of the battle that raged inside of me—the battle with temptation. I’ve had some time to examine my own experience and I’d like to share some of that with you today. I do so because I feel there is more victory I need to experience in this area. I haven’t looked at porn lately—not since we’ve been sharing together. But I’m concerned that the deadly roots of lust are still very much alive in my heart. And I know that’s true for you as well.

Some of you know that I’ve been keeping a prayer journal for many years. It’s a very personal thing. Not even my wife has read it. But I’m so concerned about this issue I’m going to read you some of what I wrote in my journal during that time. This is my journal entry on the Thursday when I first saw the Internet pornography.

THURSDAY

Dear Father,

God, forgive me for the thoughts I had today. I saw some Internet pornography. I didn't mean to at first, but once I saw it, something came over me. I am still whirling from it. And I have to admit part of me wants that feeling again. Oh God. I feel both euphoric and ashamed. Please help me!

When I saw those pictures—young, beautiful women, in suggestive poses—they did something to me. I was sexually aroused in ways I hadn't been for a long time. I wanted to see more. My breathing was shallow. I felt dizzy with anticipation. My stomach began to flutter with desire. I wanted to be young again. I wanted to be there in the picture with them.

Then, I started thinking about what I was doing. Thoughts of my wife flashed through my mind and what she would think and feel if she knew what I was doing. But no sooner had that thought passed through my mind and I mischievously realized she wasn't there—that no one else could see what I was doing.

But you saw me, Father! You were there. "Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight... Create in me a clean heart Oh God, renew a steadfast spirit within me!"

That was Thursday. Now, let me read a section from Saturday of the same week...

SATURDAY

Oh God,

I did it again! I partook of the Forbidden Fruit. I saw that it was pleasant to the eye and lusted after it in my heart. Like Eve, I sinned against you. I transgressed Your law. I put myself back on the throne of my heart. I was king again. I was in control.

I foolishly left the disgraceful email in my inbox this week. I couldn't bring myself to delete it. But those images of shame kept crowding my mind—at the most unforeseen times—like when embracing my dear wife, or speaking to my kids, or just sitting alone at my desk to pray.

I went back today to delete the link in my inbox. I still couldn't do it. I've been your child for almost 50 years, Lord! You've never failed me once. You've solved my greatest problem in life with Your Son, Jesus Christ. But I have truly failed You today. I'm held prisoner by a wretched email link in my inbox! It's consuming my thoughts and feelings; like an invisible arm choking the spiritual life out of me. I

can't pray. I can't read my Bible. I can't kiss my wife. The image of shame is branded deeply in my brain.

"I see the members of my body waging war against the law of my mind, making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am, who will set me free from the body of this death?"

PHIL "Help, I need somebody . . ."

ROGER What was that?

PHIL The Beatles' song: "Help, I need somebody . . ."

ROGER You got that right, Phil. That, guys, is where I was just a few weeks ago.

GEORGE Roger . . . I don't really know how to say this. Maybe—been there, done that. But I've been there. I know what you're saying. When I was involved in that adulterous affair, I felt those same things. I just didn't know how to talk about it.

PHIL Thanks for being so transparent with us.

JOHN That took a lot of guts, y'know?

KEN Yeah, thanks, Roger.

GEORGE We love you even more than we did before all this happened.

ROGER Guys, multiply my experience by 70, 700, 7000! Do you realize how much of this is going on? Right now? I was on the road to having a secret life. Even the short distance I walked down that road affected every area of my life. If 70% of men are struggling like this, what kind of impact is this having on the church? On our church? On you?

I read that there are some 400,000 who call themselves "clergy" in North America. 400,000. If the statistics are right, half of them—200,000 admit to being tempted with Internet pornography. How many of those pastors are standing in the pulpits of their churches each week, praying in front of their congregations, preaching sermons from the Bible on Sunday—while Saturday night they are up late, maybe their wives and children are sleeping soundly, and they are secretly looking at pornographic images on their computers?

And that's just pastors. The number of Christian men who are not pastors is even higher. 70%. Seven out of ten—probably even more.

Listen you guys, I am feeling more and more burdened about this every day. As I talk to pastors now, I try to talk about the problem. I'm amazed at how many just refuse to admit it. Some say it can't be as serious as I'm suggesting. I'll have to admit that I get really concerned when I talk to any man—whether pastor or not—and he refuses to admit there is a problem. It really makes me wonder what's in his heart.

JEREMY Roger, can I say something?

ROGER Sure, Jeremy. Go ahead.

JEREMY **Guys, I'M A LIAR!**

JEREMY I lied to you guys! I lied to my wife! I've been involved with Internet porn for four years. And it was destroying my marriage. It was destroying me. Kate found out about it a few weeks ago. I was sitting in my office at home, looking at porn and she saw it . . . The night I told you, John, that I couldn't come to Men's Group? That was the day Kate confronted me. I didn't come here. I lied to Kate. I told her this is where I was going. Instead, I went to the public library and looked at some porn sites there. That's what I was doing while you guys were meeting here!

Kate insisted I get an Internet filter. She was worried about our son. We did get one. But just about anybody can get around filters pretty easily. And I did.

When things didn't get better between us, she eventually threatened to leave me.

I could have lost the most wonderful person in my life because of **stupid pictures!**
STUPID PICTURES, GUYS! That's what this is about!

ROGER But not just pictures, Jeremy. You know that. There's more going on behind the scenes. Satan is having a victory party in the church today—the biggest Superbowl party in history. And it features Internet pornography. There is a spiritual dimension to this trap and I'm only just beginning to understand that part of it. Do you recall I talked about the chokehold those images had on me? I don't know exactly how it all works, but there was something holding on to me, something grabbing my mind and feelings. And it wasn't just flesh and blood.

KEN *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood . . ."*

ROGER That's true, Ken. Paul said that in his letter to the Ephesian Christians. The Ephesians knew something about the supernatural world. 2,000 years ago, Ephesus had one of the most important pagan temples in the world—the Temple of Artemis or Diana. And that temple was the center of all kinds of prostitution, sorcery and astrology. In Acts 19, there is a story about the triumph of the gospel during Paul's first visit there. It says that the Christians, who had come out of their life of involvement in magic and astrology—brought their magic books and pagan paraphernalia to a huge bonfire to burn it publicly as a demonstration of their repentance and confession. The total of the materials was 50,000 pieces of silver. That represented a lot of money back in those days.

It was to these dear Christians that Paul said, *"for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."* And you know what? Ancient Ephesus is not the only place that Satanic powers have set up shop. In Ephesus it was temple prostitution, magical charms and incantations, and sacrificing animals to a

pagan goddess. But here, in our own country, Satan has used other methods to capture and torment his victims. I'm convinced Internet pornography is one of his chief means.

The pornography industry is one of the fastest growing in the world. Worldwide it is a \$57 billion industry—\$12 billion in the U.S. alone. Porn revenue each year is reportedly larger than the combined revenues of all professional football, baseball and basketball franchises! It's that big. Now, don't tell me this isn't the biggest challenge facing the church in America in this generation!

There is a spiritual battle raging around us. Most of us don't even realize who the real enemy is in this battle. But let me add quickly, even though the spiritual battle is fierce, the victory has already been won! And that's what I meant by jubilee. Jubilee means that prisoners have been set free. And Jesus is our jubilee!

JEREMY I still need help, guys. I'm not over this yet. Roger, you just had one email link in your inbox. I have hundreds of porn pictures on my computer.

ROGER Let's talk about jubilee today. Let's see what we can do for Jeremy.

The word "jubilee," as used in the Bible, means "a horn of celebration." The Jubilee Horn was blown during the Season of Jubilee. Jubilee was a time in the national calendar picturing how God would redeem His people, freeing them from their bondage*.

That's what we need, guys. We must learn to blow the Jubilee Horn. And I'll tell you how we can do it. Are you with me? If not for yourself, then for the guy next to you. For me. For Jeremy.

KEN For my son-in-law.

ROGER Right. George, are you with me?

GEORGE Yes, Sir. It's obviously a problem. We need to deal with it.

ROGER Phil?

PHIL Of course. I've struggled with it. I didn't admit it to you, but I have.

ROGER Good. How about you Ken?

KEN Yes. If for no other reason than to help Jeff and Julie—but I'm still not getting a computer!

ROGER You won't have to. John, how about you?

JOHN I guess if that's what you guys want to do.

ROGER John, I think you might be struggling to understand some of this. But we're here for you. And I hope you'll join with us. Think of this as helping Jeremy. OK?

JOHN OK.

ROGER Jeremy?

JEREMY You guys don't know how important this is for me. This is my life and my marriage. I have to do this—*whatever it is*.

ROGER We're all in this together. I am proposing that we make a covenant together. We're going to blow the Horn of Jubilee—together.

ALL OK.

ROGER Here is the Covenant of Jubilee. It is actually made up of seven affirmations or promises. I call them the Seven Jubilee Affirmations. To make them easier to remember, I've developed a simple acrostic on the letters J.U.B.I.L.E.E. I've also attached scripture memory verses to each one that I want us to learn together.

Seven Jubilee Affirmations

J **Jesus is my true Lord and Master** – Romans 10:9

U **Unless God empowers me, I am hopelessly bound by sin** – Ephesians 2:8, 9

B **Bible meditation is the key that sets me free** – Psalm 119:9, 11

I **I confess my sins to God and others I trust** – I John 1:9

L **Lust, Pride and Fear are chains that bind my heart, mind and actions** I John 2:15, 16

E **Escape from sin bondage comes when I maintain integrity in my relationships** – Galatians 6:1,2

E **Everyone around me also needs a Jubilee**

ROGER: Well, what do you think? Phil?

PHIL Roger. How can we really be sure we're able to do this? You talked about the chokehold of Internet porn. Isn't it dangerous to start making promises to God we can't keep?

ROGER Covenants, commitments and promises to God are very serious things, Phil. I agree. But so is integrity. When something like Internet porn gets a grip on us, we need strong tactics to overcome it. Rather than ask if it's risky to make a covenant with God, I would rather ask, is it more dangerous not to?

GEORGE So, how can we help each other uphold these Jubilee Affirmations? Do we just take each other's word for it? I mean, I think we all know that it's difficult to be totally honest, even with our friends, if we're in deep trouble.

JEREMY I think I can answer that, George, at least as far as Internet accountability. I've done some research on filters and other types of programs to help people stay accountable. There are some good programs out there that do this. They provide accountability so that every website I visit is logged and reported to my accountability partners Kate and Roger. The one I use even highlights websites that are questionable. Kate was really grateful when I told her I was going to do this. Because I offered to do it, I felt like a little trust was restored.

JOHN That sounds pretty scary! Recording somebody's web activity... is that legal? It sounds like an invasion of privacy!

JEREMY It is legal. For one thing, there's a contract I signed so I know it's there. But more than that, it's necessary.

JEREMY I can't tell you how liberating it's been. I voluntarily told my wife I was going to use this program, not just for her, but also for me. I wanted to be free from this sin. Now, it's like my wife is right there, looking over my shoulder, every time I use the Internet. For the first time in years I feel free.

ROGER Jubilee.

JEREMY Right.

ROGER That's what the sixth affirmation is all about: **E – Escape from sin bondage comes when I maintain integrity in my relationships.** The only way you can do this with the Internet is if you know that someone else knows everything you're looking at.

I think it's going to be important to memorize these Seven Jubilee Affirmations and to recite them together before each of our meetings; that way, we remember our covenant to one another.

GEORGE It sounds like you're planning that we continue meeting together. Are we all in agreement about that?

KEN Definitely. More than ever.

You know, guys. I've been pretty hardnosed about this whole issue. But what I've seen here, especially from you Jeremy, has really made me see things differently. I love you, Brother.

There are probably other guys in our church who are struggling with this same thing. Maybe we can help them prevent the kinds of problems Jeff and Julie are having.

PHIL Maybe we can get Jeff to come to our Men's Group.

ROGER Good idea. We haven't talked much about this concept yet, but the third Jubilee Affirmation is **B - Bible meditation is the key that sets me free**. The Jubilee process involves renewing our minds. Scripture says that our minds must be transformed and renewed. Does anyone remember where in the Bible it promises that God's Word can set me free from sin?

GEORGE I memorized that a long time ago. Psalm 119:9, 11 . . . *How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.*"

I think about that verse a lot. Even though I don't have a problem with Internet pornography, I have enough sexual sin in my past that images are always there.

ROGER Yes, we all must do that. Romans 12:1, 2 reminds us that God's word transforms us by the renewing of our minds. I have to fall back on this promise a lot. I need my mind to be renewed and transformed.

I've put together a Scripture verse memory pack for each of you. There are seven Bible verses here. And over the next seven weeks we'll memorize one each week. These verses are designed to renew and transform our minds. See, it fits into your shirt pocket. I want you to carry it around with you everywhere you go. And when you have a few minutes, start memorizing and reminding yourself of the verses you've already memorized.

JOHN This seems like a lot of work. I mean, I'm willing to try, but I don't know if I can handle it.

JEREMY I'll tell you what, John. Why don't we get together one night a week after work, and memorize the verses together. I need help too. We can also pray together . . .

ROGER I'm so delighted to hear you guys talking like this. This is exactly what it's going to take for this to work.

Earlier I quoted from Paul's letter to Rome. Paul says in Romans 7, "*Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*"

The rest of that verse goes, "*Thanks be unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord...for the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the Law of Sin and Death...For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace...however; you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you...*"

As we will discuss in the weeks to come, God has promised His own Spirit to give us victory and to equip us to fulfill these promises we are making to each other. That's what the second Jubilee Affirmation is all about: **U – Unless God empowers me, I am**

hopelessly bound by sin. The way God empowers us is by His own Spirit—the Holy Spirit—who lives inside all those who affirm the first one: **J – Jesus is my true Lord and Master.**

We aren't in this alone. We aren't just here together. God is for us. God is actually inside us. And if God is for us, who can be against us!

Are you guys ready? Starting next time we'll take one of the Jubilee Affirmations each week.

That evening, as the newly named Covenant Group dismissed, there was a new hope and strength for the men as they drove home. But there were hard things to deal with too. At Jeremy's home, there was not only the trust to rebuild with Kate; but Little Jeremy had discovered Internet pornography. The results showed up on an Internet accountability log. Jeremy realized then and there that his own battles would take on even greater significance now. He must have victory over this—not only for himself, but also for Little Jeremy.

(Later that night, in Little Jeremy's bedroom)

JEREMY Son, we've got to talk.

STUDY GUIDE: Chapter Five

There are a variety of ways you can use the lesson material in Celebrate the Jubilee—by individuals, by accountability partners, families or groups. You have permission to duplicate or distribute the materials freely for non-commercial use. Here are some suggestions for ways to get the most out of Chapter Five. Feel free to pick and choose from among them. If you have ideas on how to improve this study, we'd be happy to hear from you.

FOR ONE

- Read through the lesson in the chapter.
- As you read Roger's journal entries what did it make you think of him? Could you write something that personal about your own secret sins and share it with a group of trusted friends? Have you ever done so?
- Do you think it was important for Jeremy to admit his secret life to the whole group? Why or why not?
- Read Ephesians 6, especially the sections that deal with spiritual warfare (verses 11 and following). Do you think there is an invisible war going on with pornography as weaponry?
- Print out the seven Jubilee Affirmations. Are you willing to make these personal? Are you willing to write out the verses and begin memorizing them? Are you willing to enter into a covenant group with others who are making the same affirmations?

FOR GROUPS

- Distribute copies of the lesson or ask the others in the group to download it for themselves and read it prior to coming together.
- If you have at least three people in your group, have each person read one of the parts out loud in the group. Some may need to read more than one part. If you want, you can even act it out (but you don't have to).
- Discuss whether Roger should have read his journal to the group. Why do you suppose he did this?
- Discuss Jeremy's admission of lying to the others. Do you think it was necessary for him to admit his secret life to everyone? Why or why not?
- Print out the Seven Jubilee Affirmations and distribute them to everyone. Ask if they are willing to enter into a covenant using these affirmations as the basis for it.

FOR EVERYONE

- Be sure to spend some time in prayer. Pray that God will teach you about integrity through these lessons. Ask God to open your eyes to see areas where you can improve in this area.
- If you are using the material in a group and any personal problems were shared, remind everyone about the importance of respecting the person's privacy and not sharing personal information outside the group.

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

CHAPTER SIX: A PERSONAL JUBILEE

In Chapter Five we introduced you to the **Seven Jubilee Affirmations**. These affirmations are promises or commitments our fictional men's group made in order to help one another maintain integrity—not just on the Internet but in all of their lives. As you completed these chapters perhaps you wondered what happened to Roger, to Jeremy, to Ken (and his son-in-law, Jeff)? What about John? Did this new Covenant Group really have that much benefit in their lives? We've decided to leave those questions for you to discuss. If you are meeting in a men's group and using this material for discussion, talk about some likely outcomes in the character's lives. Discuss the issues they were likely to face. And if you can, we would like to encourage you to write your own "ending" for some of their stories for posting on our website. Please send all correspondence to jubilee@covenanteyes.com, or Covenant Eyes, PO Box 637, Owosso, Michigan 48867.

Here are the Seven Jubilee Affirmations once again, along with some questions to guide you as you write their stories:

- J** **Jesus is my true Lord and Master** – Romans 10:9
What does it mean that Jesus is Lord and Master?
- U** **Unless God empowers me, I am hopelessly bound by sin** – Ephesians 2:8, 9
Why are we hopeless without God's power?
- B** **Bible meditation is the key that sets me free** – Psalm 119:9, 11
How can the Bible change our lives?
- I** **I confess my sins to God and others I trust** – I John 1:9
Why do we need to tell others about our sin?
- L** **Lust, Pride and Fear are chains that bind my heart, mind and actions** I John 2:15, 16
Why are lust, pride and fear at the core of all sin struggles?
- E** **Escape from sin bondage comes when I maintain integrity in my relationships** – Galatians 6:1,2
How can we build integrity in all our relationships?
- E** **Everyone around me also needs a Jubilee**
How can we help other people experience jubilee?

STUDY GUIDE: Chapter Six

We have purposely left this story open-ended. We want you to write its ending and believe that as you do you will learn something important about how you can Celebrate the Jubilee yourself. As you complete this final chapter we suggest you think about how each of the character's lives was affected by the events that took place. You may decide to write your thoughts down. If you are part of a group study using this material, have everyone write or think about an ending and then discuss it together. If you are an individual using this material by yourself we would ask that you write an ending and send it to us by email. Please send all correspondence to jubilee@covenanteyes.com, or Covenant Eyes, PO Box 637, Owosso, Michigan 48867.

WANT TO GO FURTHER?

Perhaps you are ready to take these Jubilee Affirmations and put them into practice. If so, we would suggest the following (if you aren't already doing it).

- Develop a Covenant Group of a few individuals who are willing to enter into the Affirmations together and hold each other accountable for them. This would mean meeting at least once per week, even as the men's group did in the story.
- As part of this, we recommend that you go through a training program called *Building Integrity in Relationships*, a four part audio/video series available free of cost. All four lessons can found on the bottom half of our **Help and Support** page:
http://www.covenanteyes.com/help_and_support/category/?c=4
- In your weekly covenant group we suggest the following five simple but important procedures and practices.
 - Begin the meeting with prayer.
 - Repeat the Seven Jubilee Affirmations together, out loud. As individuals memorize the Scripture verses for each one, you may recite those together as well.
 - Take time each week to let each person share sin struggles or victories from the past week.
 - Depending on the group, it may be good to have a brief (10-minute) devotional challenge from the Bible, relating to the issue of integrity. You may elect to have a different person in the group share each week.
 - Make plenty of time to pray for each other, by name, remembering the specific struggles or victories individually.
- In respect to the time and priorities of others, ALWAYS conclude the meeting at the appointed time. If you are in the midst of some significant discussion or crisis with a person, give those who have to leave permission to excuse themselves quietly.
- Unless you are a trained or licensed professional (such as a pastor or counselor) you may find yourself in discussions or situations that are much more serious than you are capable of handling on your own. Don't be afraid to ask someone for help when you feel like it is beyond you.

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE: INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY (BREAKING FREE) TEST



Internet Pornography Test

“Online” is defined as spending time on the Internet, whether by computer, a PDA (personal digital assistant) device or cell phone. “Never” means absolutely none. “Always” means repeatedly on a daily basis. Score by adding up the total of numbers circled. See below for test results.

	Never			Always	
Do you lose track of time when you're online?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you sacrifice needed sleep/rest because you spend so much time online?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you become agitated/angry when someone interrupts your access to the Internet?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you ever lie about how much time you've spent on the Internet?	1	2	3	4	5
Does your mood/attitude improve when you are online?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you ever hide online site visits or personal interactions from your family?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you currently have/use an Internet filter and/or accountability software on all your computers?	1	2	3	4	5
Have you ever intentionally visited a sex or porn site at work while on the job?	1	2	3	4	5
Have you ever conducted an instant message/chat with a stranger on a sexual topic?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you prefer to spend time with Internet acquaintances rather than family?	1	2	3	4	5
Are you more inclined to visit a sex or porn site today than you were a year ago?	1	2	3	4	5
Have you ever intentionally downloaded pornographic material?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you feel guilt or shame because of any Internet activities?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you ever spend money on Internet pornography?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you feel sexually aroused when looking at or thinking about online pornography?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you masturbate when looking at or thinking about online pornography or after visiting a sex site?	1	2	3	4	5
Have you visited an Internet sex or porn site in the last month?	1	2	3	4	5

Internet Pornography Test – Scoring and Analysis

- 17-20 You have an **Internet pornography sensitivity**. You have not had much exposure to it but you are vulnerable and should take precautions not to be trapped in the future.
- 21-40 You have an **Internet pornography obsession**. You have been exposed to moderate levels of Internet pornography and should seek help.
- 41+ You may have an **Internet pornography addiction**. You have been exposed to high levels of Internet pornography and should seek help.

CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

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