

## 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

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 Four. 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.
- 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.

Copyright © 2007, 2008 by Covenant Eyes, Incorporated.

This document may not be reproduced or printed  
in any form without written permission,  
except for non-commercial use.

Covenant Eyes, Inc.  
1525 W. King Street  
Owosso, MI 48867  
877.479.1119

[www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)

"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible<sup>®</sup>,  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,  
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))