



# Conversation Guide

## Pornography

Feature  
Presentation

Part  
01

**Pornography offers us the illusion of intimacy, while in reality it reduces human beings to objects.**

### Summary

We can define porn as any depiction of sexual activity that causes us to be stimulated erotically. It comes in a variety of media, including music and literature.

While porn is entirely unjustifiable, we need to recognize that the longing for sexual intimacy is a good desire God has given us. Yet millions of people turn to porn because it so powerfully mimics the truth and because it is accessible, affordable, and anonymous.

### Reflect, Discuss, and Share

**01** In "Side to Side," Ariana Grande says, "See you standing over there with your body / Feeling like I wanna rock with your body / And we don't gotta think 'bout nothin'." Do you believe this portrayal of sexuality is in any way pornographic?

**Discuss!**

**02** Pope John Paul II said, "The problem is not that porn shows too much of the person, but that it shows too little." How does porn show "too little" of people and how is their humanity impacted as a result?

**Think about this!**

**03** Tell your teen about a time you or a close friend struggled with sexual temptation.

What does it look like in your life to flee sexual immorality?

**Be Vulnerable!**

## Diving Deeper

In this section we do not want to lecture at students but allow them to read the text of scripture and walk through a series of questions so that they engage with the truth of the Bible. The three sections of interaction (Discover, Investigate, Go) are different sets of questions helping us to engage the Word of God in a proper way.

We will spend some time in Romans 1:21-25 which describes the process by which people, who are aware of God's existence and his character, sink deeper and deeper into sin by rejecting Him and His ways instead for what they feel is best. Idolatry is to value anything or to worship anything outside of God. From the video we see that pornography is a form of idolatry...misusing a good gift: sexuality; and therefore using it to serve our own desires, and shortcutting God's. In this case idolatry is not a thing, it is a person. It's us. We worship ourselves and make ourselves God.

**Romans 1:21-25** *"21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen."*

### **DISCOVER:** What Does The Text Say? (Observation)

1. What does the text say "they" did? List them.
  - *Knew God but did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him.*
  - *Claimed to be wise but were foolish.*
  - *Exchanged the glory of God for created things.*
  - *Exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped/served created things rather than the Creator.*
2. What happened to their thinking? To their hearts?
  - *Their thinking became futile and their hearts were foolish and became darkened.*
3. What does the text say that God did?
  - *Gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity & to the dishonoring of their bodies.*

### **INVESTIGATION:** What Does The Text Mean? (Interpretation)

1. What does it mean that their thinking became futile. Look up the word "futile" if need be.
  - *Futile: completely ineffective, serving no useful purpose.*
    - *This means that what they knew about God did not change how they lived under His good and kind rule as God. Since He is Creator He knows what is best for us and His good world.*
    - *People who sink deeper into sin and idolatry amazingly forget they were created and had no authority as to when, where, how they were born. No longer is God the one who knows what is best. Thinking to be wise, this futile thinking leads to their destruction rather than to a life that flourishes now & in eternity.*

2. Since at some point, with idolatrous people, God “gives them up to their own lusts and sinful desires” who is responsible for this sin, God or the idolatrous people? Why?
- *This may or may not cause some tension in the group discussion. That’s ok. Let them wrestle with it.*
  - *Ultimately, what we want our guys to understand is that each one of us are rebellious as sinners. God’s grace helps us to see Him for who He is and further helps us to **repent** (to believe that He knows what is best) and to **trust** (to believe that Jesus is the one who can redeem and restore us back to God’s original design.)*
    - *Yet, when we continually & repeatedly reject God’s grace and stubbornly believe we know what is best and know how to provide the best life for ourselves both now and eternity we set ourselves up against God. Eventually, in judgement, God removes the only grace keeping us from complete rejection of Him. This is God “giving us up” which in reality is God giving us what we want. This responsibility is not on God but the idolatrous people.*

**GO:** How is God inviting Us to Respond? (Application)

1. How are we often tempted to think about the sin in our life?
  - *Often times our own thinking becomes futile in that we think 1) our relationship with sin is not that severe, 2) that we can control how far into sin we go, and 3) how much influence it can have on our life.*
2. Let’s “assume” that we all currently have particular sins (no matter what they are) that we are justifying and/or making excuses for their presence in our lives. Answer the following ?’s.
  - How does this discussion challenge you on how you should think about the sins in your life?
    - *If we are truly justifying sin or thinking more highly of ourselves being able to manage the sin and its consequences this discussion should alarm us.*
    - *Instead of justifying sin we instead should feel the weight of fighting against sin and temptation so that our thinking doesn’t become more and more futile.*
  - How does one fight against sin and temptation?
    - *Daily Repent and put your Trust in Jesus.*
    - *Confess sin to the Lord. (see 1 John 1:8-9)*
    - *Let the light into the darkness. Find a trusted friend or encourager you can share your sin struggles with. (see John 3:19 & 12:46).*
    - *Don’t provide yourself easy opportunities to sin (see Romans 13:14).*
    - *When opportunities to sin arise, RUN! (see 2 Tim 2:22)*
    - *Pursue the things of God (see 2 Tim 2:22)*
    - *Don’t do this alone. Strive to do this with others! (2 Tim 2:22)*

Before closing in prayer, share the bullet points and provide opportunity for people to share prayer needs.

- Thank you guys for your willingness to participate in such an important yet difficult conversation.
- We want our time together to be a safe environment for you but not for your sin. If you are in a struggle with sin please talk with someone!
- You’re not alone and you’re not the only one struggling. Be brave and trust that you are loved by us and more importantly you are loved by Jesus!

Close the group time in prayer for those with prayer needs.