

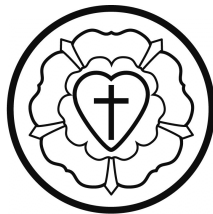
# Discussion Questions for DVD Vignettes

*Selected portions taken from the Bible study,*

## Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society

*Please see Bible study guide for complete content.*

*Produced by*



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Brief abbreviations of the Lutheran Confessions and Lutheran hymnals noted in this study:

AC – *The Augsburg Confession*

LC – *The Large Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther*

SC – *The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther*

LBW – *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978)

LSB – *Lutheran Service Book* (2006)

LW – *Lutheran Worship* (1982)

TLH – *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941)

This publication is designed to provide general information on biblical conflict resolution. It is not intended to provide legal or other professional advice. If legal counsel or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

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# Discussion Questions for DVD Vignettes

*Selected portions taken from the Bible study,*

## **Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society**

*NOTE: Please see Bible study guide for complete content.*

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# **Introductory Lesson: Why a Bible Study on Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society?**

## **Discussion Questions for Vignette “Introduction”**

**DVD:** View the “Introduction” segment on the DVD, “Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society.” Answer the following question:

1. How can studying this topic benefit Christians in their families, their workplaces, and the church?

# Lesson 1: Living in a Sensual Society

## Discussion Questions for Vignette “Father & Son 1”

### *Confronting in love*

**DVD:** Watch the DVD vignette entitled, “Father & Son 1,” showing a father confronting his teenage son about using Internet pornography. Discuss the following:

1. What are the son’s sins that are revealed here?
2. What were the father’s godly desires?
3. How did the father’s godly desires turn into sinful demands?
4. What were the results of the confrontation that took place?
5. If you were the parent in this situation what would be your next step? What if you were the teenager?
6. Look up the following Bible verses and discuss what is needed for healing for both father and son.

1 John 1:8-10  
Psalm 32:3-5  
Micah 7:18-19  
Proverbs 28:13  
James 5:16

In your opinion, who in the video vignette needs to take the first step in confessing?

## Discussion Questions for Vignette “Father & Son 2”

### *Healing through confession and forgiveness*

**DVD:** Watch the video vignette entitled, “Father & Son 2,” the second scene of the father addressing his son’s use of Internet pornography. As you watch the vignette, you may want to refer to the pamphlet, “Announcing God’s Grace,” provided with the Bible study guide (this may also be downloaded and printed from the pdf file on the DVD).

7. How did the father model reconciliation, and what impact did it have on his son?

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8. Did the father's confession diminish his authority or enhance it?
9. Did the father's announcement of forgiveness simply excuse the sin of his son? Why or why not?
10. The father used the pamphlet, "Announcing God's Grace." Such forms are neither required nor forbidden by Scripture. How can using this pamphlet be beneficial? How might such a form become a disadvantage?
11. Why is accountability so important, even though forgiveness has been granted?
12. What kinds of accountability might be helpful for the son?

Above all, REMEMBER who you are and to whom you belong. You are a child of God and you belong to him. You were purchased, not with gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19). Remember your Baptism:

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1a)*

## Lesson 2: Getting to the Heart of Idolatrous Sin

### Discussion Questions for Vignette “King David’s Servants”

#### *The progression of idolatry*

Our hearts are a wellspring of all our thoughts, desires, words and actions. And therein lies the problem. I have a desire. Many of my desires are godly. But even a godly desire can easily turn into a demand. When my demand is not met, I can become judgmental of those who fail to meet my demand, and I will make them pay. Here you have the progression of idolatry:

- I desire,
- I demand (self-serving craving),
- I judge (condemn),
- I punish.

**Note: Idolatrous cravings always demand sacrifice.** In order to meet idolatrous cravings, one often sacrifices people or things in order to serve one’s idol.

**DVD:** Watch the video vignette entitled, “King David’s Servants,” which describes King David’s progression into temptation and sin, as told in 2 Samuel 11. Then consider the following questions.

1. When did David’s sexual sin begin?
2. Why would we equate David’s actions here with a form of idolatry?
3. Identify David’s progression into idolatry:  
Desire (both godly and sinful)  
Demand (self-serving cravings)  
Judgment (whom did he judge?)  
Punishment
4. David was convinced that no one knew about his sins. Who else must have known about some of them? (Also consider the end of 2 Samuel 11:27.)
5. How is David’s slide into sin similar to our own experience with temptation, sin, cover up, and denial? (Compare to 1 John 1:8, 10.)
6. What are some things that those who get hooked on Internet pornography might sacrifice in order to get what they want?

## Lesson 3: Hope for Healing the Idolatrous Heart

### Discussion Questions for Vignette “King David & Nathan”

#### *Guiding people to restoration*

**DVD:** Watch the video vignette entitled, “King David & Nathan,” which shows Nathan guiding David to restoration (based on 2 Samuel 12). Discuss the following questions.

1. How did Nathan approach David so as to minimize his denial? (2 Samuel 12:1-6)
2. When David was convicted of his sin, whom did he confess that he had sinned against? (2 Samuel 12:13a)
3. What was Nathan’s immediate response to David’s confession? (2 Samuel 12:13b)
4. What consequences did he *suffer*? (2 Samuel 12:10-12, 14-23)
5. Although he was forgiven, David suffered earthly consequences for his sin. What consequence was he *spared*? (2 Samuel 12:13b)

# Lesson 4: Healing a Marriage Wounded by Internet Adultery

## Discussion Questions for Vignette “Husband & Wife”

### *Addressing Internet adultery in marriage*

Internet adultery comes in many forms. It may occur through various forms of pornography. It also may develop through cybersex, a term that describes sexually explicit interactions with another person online. Such actions may take place in chat rooms, with emails, or through live video communications.

At first, cybersex may simply begin as friendly interchanges with someone else online. Soon, emotional connections are made, and intimate feelings of loneliness or disappointments about one’s married life are shared. In some cases, cybersex may develop with someone who portrays himself as single when he is actually married. The anonymity and easy access provide temptation for an unhappy spouse to seek consolation with another person over the Internet. If left unchecked, the relationship may grow into physical meetings. Divorce lawyers and counselors indicate that Internet pornography and cybersex are leading causes of divorce in our society today.

1. How does one’s involvement with Internet pornography or cybersex violate God’s design for marriage, according to the following verses?

Genesis 2:18

Ephesians 5:21-33

1 Peter 3:7

Mark 10:6-9

**DVD:** Watch the video vignette entitled, “Husband & Wife,” that portrays a husband confronting his wife about sexually explicit e-mails between her and another man that he found on their computer. Discuss the following questions.

2. What kind of hurts can Internet relationships cause in a marriage? What kind of hurts outside the marriage?
3. How might problems in a marriage relationship lead to a spouse turning to Internet pornography or cybersex?
4. If a friend or loved one confesses to you that he or she is struggling with or is caught up in Internet pornography or cybersex activity, what would you say?

### ***The secrecy of Internet adultery and its consequences***

5. Look up the following Bible verses and identify what sins are associated with the use of Internet pornography or cybersex.

Exodus 20:14

Matthew 5:27-28

Romans 13:13

1 Peter 2:11

Ephesians 4:25

*Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible. (Ephesians 5:11-13)*

6. What might be the consequences of Internet adultery (including both pornography and cybersex)?

### **Discussion Questions for Vignette “A Husband’s Story”**

#### ***Healing a marriage violated by Internet adultery***

**DVD:** Watch the video vignette entitled, “A Husband’s Story,” in which a man describes how his addiction to Internet pornography nearly cost him his marriage. Discuss the following questions.

7. What spiritual issue did the husband come to realize was his struggle?
8. What brought hope for the husband when he realized the consequences of his sin? What provided hope for his wife?
9. After their separation and the man’s confession to his wife, the husband stated that it took a few months for his wife to forgive him, and two years to trust him again. What was his attitude toward his wife during this time? How do you think that aided in their reconciliation?
10. Summarize what you heard in this story that is the key for reconciliation in a marriage violated by Internet adultery.

#### ***Healing through confession and forgiveness***

The Church has in many cases given away the ministry of reconciliation to other sources of counseling and conflict resolution. While we need Christian counselors and lawyers, professional

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counseling and legal advice do not replace the Church's responsibility to *restore those caught in sin* (review Galatians 6:1-2).

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."  
And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."  
(John 20:21-23)*

We in the church sometimes have become desensitized and fail to recognize the sinfulness of behaviors we see around us. We ourselves can easily become "caught up" in them and need the gentle restoration of a brother or sister in Christ, so that we might be led to confession and forgiveness.

11. Review the pamphlet, "Announcing God's Grace through Confession and Forgiveness" (included with the Bible study and also available from the DVD). This form for confession and forgiveness might be used in a situation like the one dealt with in the video observed during this lesson. Discuss confession and forgiveness in the presence of:

- God
- A pastor
- A spouse
- Children
- A Christian friend

## Lesson 5: Ministering to Those “Caught” by Internet Pornography

### Discussion Questions for Vignette “A Father’s Story”

#### *The goal in restoration: Proclaiming God’s forgiveness*

Whenever someone is moved to repent, she must immediately be comforted with the good news of forgiveness in Christ Jesus. If you hear another’s confession of sin, do not leave her in her guilt. Share God’s gift of mercy with her.

1. Always give hope through the Gospel. It can be as simple as reading one of the many Bible verses that proclaim God’s forgiveness. Consider the following verses.

1 Peter 2:24

Psalm 32:1-5

Isaiah 55:6-7

Luke 7:47-50

**DVD:** Watch the video vignette entitled, “A Father’s Story,” the account of a son who calls his father to report that he is being charged with a felony. Discuss the following questions:

2. In the phone call to his father, what signs of repentance did the son display?
3. What was the father’s immediate response?
4. An outsider may not have been sure that his son’s sorrow was “godly” sorrow. The father heard a desperation in his son’s voice and words that led him to believe that his son was repentant. Perhaps, the son was merely expressing “worldly” sorrow (see 2 Corinthians 7:10). Nevertheless, why was the assurance of forgiveness so important for the son at the time he called?
5. Sin always has consequences. In God’s forgiveness, the consequences of eternal death are taken away. How did the Gospel enable the son to live with the earthly consequences of his sin over time?
6. What is the most important message you would give to someone who asks you how to deal with a friend or family member who has been found to be using Internet pornography or engaged in cybersex?

## Discussion Questions for Vignette “Conclusion”

### *Trusting God for application to daily life*

7. Our gracious God has given us his holy Word that clearly confronts us with our sin and comforts us with his free forgiveness on account of Christ. In his love, he has placed us, by virtue of our Baptism, into a community of believers known as the “body of Christ.” In this community we are accountable to one another. Describe the accountability spoken of in the following:

Romans 12:4-8

Hebrews 10:25

Galatians 6:1

James 5:19-20

2 Corinthians 2:7-8

**NOTE: For helping restore someone “caught” by Internet pornography, see “Accountability and Changing Behavior” on page 15 in the Appendix.**

8. The opportunities for personal application of God’s word in our lives are many. Do not be anxious or overcome by such opportunities. Simply trust in the Lord’s promises to you. Note the following Bible verses:

Matthew 28:20

1 John 1:9

Isaiah 26:3-4

Isaiah 41:10

*Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.*  
(Psalm 32:1-2)

**DVD:** Watch the video vignette entitled, “Conclusion.”

9. As you reflect on this Bible study, discuss what you found to be the most helpful insight.

# **Appendix**

## **Accountability and Changing Behavior**

### **Gospel hope for overcoming idolatry (including addictive behavior)**

Gospel-based strategies for addressing Internet pornography require the application of several components: repentance, confession and absolution, and accountability. In order to address the spiritual issues, one must gently confront the sin and idolatry, encourage repentance and confession, apply God's grace in forgiveness, and provide accountability for amending the sinful behavior.

- Application of Law (Scripture, civil law, policies, requirements, behavioral change) does not change the heart but does prepare the sinner for reception of the Gospel and as a guide for amending a sinful life.
- Application of Gospel (the good news of our forgiveness from God) heals us in forgiveness, changes our hearts and gives power to amend our sinful lives.
- Behavior modification (developing new habits) is a necessary part of repentance but is empowered by the Gospel.
- Accountability is necessary to implement change, replace sinful habits, and aid repentance over time. Christian accountability also provides opportunity for continued application of the Gospel (announcing God's grace).

### **Suggestions to aid accountability**

- Arrange for accountability by Christians (friends, family members, co-workers, pastor, counselor, support group).
  - Identify accountability partner(s) who understand(s) how to apply both Law and Gospel.
  - Encourage a practice of private confession and absolution.
    - Help person identify a confessor.
  - Provide for review of website use on computers (and cell phones)
    - Monitor computer history.
    - Install software that reports all websites accessed to the individual's accountability network.
    - Be certain that accountability partners also have accountability so that they can resist temptation to view the same sites.
  - At work, home and school, turn computer screens so that they can be viewed by others and not kept private.

- Enact a policy that online activity is limited to only when others are present: family members at home or other employees at work.
- In churches, schools, and work places, adopt a policy that all electronic communications (phone, computer, email, Internet, fax, cell phone, texting, etc.) using employer-sponsored equipment and subscriptions are property of the employer and subject to review at any time.
- Agree that computer may be used only for specific tasks.
- Install internet safety tools and screens, such as blocking software.

### **For those with serious idolatry patterns (often referred to as “addictions”)**

Professional counseling and accountability groups offer help for those who have become “caught” in their idolatry and need more intense assistance for battling addictive behavior. Such individuals and their loved ones may find the following suggestions helpful.

- Counseling from a Christian professional who can:
  - Assist in identifying the impact of the addiction on user and others.
  - Help in providing validation and accountability from a support group or spouse.
  - Encourage commitment to recovery and getting better before making major decisions.
  - Guide the user to confess to those who have been hurt by the activity.
  - Counsel user and loved ones to manage anger and other emotions.
  - Establish ground rules and boundaries.
  - Hold accountable.
- Christ-centered twelve-step programs (such as Celebrate Recovery or other Christian-based recovery programs) and guided support group meetings can provide opportunities for individuals to:
  - Work with a sponsor or mentor for accountability.
  - Re-establish relationships with friends that were ignored.
  - Participate in group therapy.
  - Continue in ongoing recovery work.
  - Receive encouragement for active worship and fellowship in the congregation, including making use of the means of grace and practicing private confession and forgiveness.
- Seek to restore relationship with the person’s family by:
  - Confessing and forgiving one another for violations of trust and other wrongs.
  - Committing to marital counseling and rebuilding trust through accountability, loyalty, and mutual responsibilities.
  - Evaluating and addressing the impact upon the children and other family.

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- Practicing family confession and forgiveness.

## **Leaders' Notes for Using the DVD**

We encourage leaders to use the DVD entitled, “Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society.” This DVD has been specially designed to accompany the Bible study, *Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society*, with discussion questions incorporated in the lessons.

### **Special Features**

- **Trailer:** A trailer has been prepared which may be used to introduce the subject to people and invite them to participate in the study.
- **Discussion Questions:** Although each lesson includes discussion questions for each vignette, a copy of all the questions is included in a pdf format for printing. This may be helpful for use during counseling.
- **“Announcing God’s Grace” pamphlet:** This pamphlet is included with the Bible study, and a pdf copy is included on the DVD for printing and use with the DVD. DVD users have permission to print copies needed to accompany use of the DVD, but not for resale. Multiple copies of the pamphlet may be ordered from [www.hisaor.org](http://www.hisaor.org).

### **Prepare**

- **View in advance:** Leaders are urged to view each vignette before showing it to a Bible study group, to be familiar with it and to be prepared to lead a discussion. In some cases, people will ask questions or discuss issues beyond the prepared questions, and the leader will want some advance time to anticipate them and consider how to lead the discussion.
- **Test the equipment:** Before using in the group, test equipment to minimize disruptions.

### **Other uses for the DVD**

- **Teaching:** The vignettes from the DVD can be helpful for teaching or preaching other lessons on reconciliation. For example:
  - The “Father and Son 1” and “Father and Son 2” vignettes can be used to contrast sinful ways of addressing conflict with godly ways. “Father and Son 2” demonstrates how to use the pamphlet “Announcing God’s Grace,” showing how people can confess and forgive during emotional circumstances.
  - The two vignettes regarding King David can be used in settings where this familiar text is taught or preached. “King David’s Servants” can be used to help demonstrate how gossip is quickly spread and how others often see our sins when we cannot see our own. “King David & Nathan” is useful for teaching gentle restoration, repentance, confession, and announcing God’s grace. In addition, it teaches that forgiveness removes the consequences of eternal death, though earthly consequences may remain.
- **Counseling:** Several of the vignettes may be helpful in private counseling with families, individuals, or co-workers. Showing a particular vignette may help a couple or family open up discussion on their situation. The vignettes may be used as a teaching tool to demonstrate a different way of addressing conflict.

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- **Private Encouragement:** The DVD may be shared with someone who is struggling with issues similar to the vignettes. Specific sections can be assigned and then followed-up. Those who view them on their own should be especially encouraged to watch the conclusion, in which the Gospel is proclaimed.

## **Leaders' Notes for Introductory Lesson: Why a Bible Study on Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society?**

1. Such a study can benefit Christians in all their vocations for several reasons:
  - a. Our society has desensitized us to sexual sin, and Christians need to be aware of how sensuous our society has become.
  - b. Those who are not aware of the dangers of sexual temptation from the Internet and other media may not be sensitive to helping others from falling into temptation.
  - c. When discovering that a friend or family member has fallen into temptation, Christians need to know how to lovingly confront such sin and assist in healing.
  - d. Those who are not aware of the dangers may themselves fall into temptation, and Christians need to know where to turn for help.
  - e. Christians need to be keenly aware of the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ and how the healing power of God's forgiveness can be used for restoration of relationships and change in behavior.

# Leaders' Notes for Lesson 1: Living in a Sensual Society

## Question 1

His sins include viewing and purchasing Internet pornography, lying about his age (required to signing on the pornography website), acquiring a credit card, covering up his sin, denying his sin, sinning against the commandment to honor his father and mother, and sinning against the commandments on adultery and coveting. Of course, all of these are sins against the First Commandment.

## Question 2

The father's godly desires include restoring his son by confronting his sin, and helping his son to understand the sinfulness of his actions. The father's approach, however, lacked love, respect, and gentleness, and was therefore sinful.

## Question 3

Although his intentions were godly, his anger, reckless words, and quick accusations went from loving confrontation into sinful demands. Note Paul's admonition to parents in Ephesians 6:4 and his instruction for restoration in Galatians 6:1.

## Question 4

The results were a lack of reconciliation through confession and forgiveness. Neither the son nor his father has acknowledged their sin.

## Question 5

Answers will vary. Confession by either one would be an appropriate first step toward reconciliation.

## Question 6

1 John 1:8-10. Faith that recognizes and confesses the sin involved also recognizes and confesses God's faithful forgiveness. When you confess your sin, you confess your faith. When you deny your sin, you deny your need for Christ and his forgiveness.

Psalms 32:3-5. The lack of confession leads to suffering, including physical symptoms. Healing is found through confessing one's sins and receiving God's forgiveness.

Micah 7:18-19. See the delight of the Lord – he pardons, forgives, does not stay away, shows mercy and remembers our sins no more.

Proverbs 28:13. The same as Micah 7:18-19.

James 5:16. Note the connection between confessing and healing.

Answers will vary. However, based on Scripture, both father and son are responsible for taking the first step in confessing (see Matthew 5:23-24; 7:3-5 and 1 John 1:8-10).

### **DVD: Father & Son 2**

Before showing the DVD vignette, hand out the pamphlet, “Announcing God’s Grace.” A copy is included with the study guide, and it may be printed from the DVD. Encourage everyone to follow along in the pamphlet as it is used in the vignette.

### **Question 7**

The father modeled reconciliation by taking the initiative to approach his son, by being humble and gentle, by confessing his own sin (Matthew 5:23-24 and Galatians 6:1).

### **Question 8**

The father’s confession was an expression of his own faith in Christ (1 John 1:8-9) and an example to his own son. Contrary to what many think, such actions often increase the respect of authority by those in submission rather than diminish it.

### **Question 9**

Forgiveness does not excuse sin. The fact that forgiveness is given is indication that sin needs to be addressed.

### **Question 10**

When emotions run high, a prepared rite can help people avoid sinful words of anger or denial in their confession, and it can guide people in specifically announcing God’s forgiveness to one another. The pamphlet incorporates God’s promises as quoted in Scripture. God’s Word brings comfort and healing, and it provides strength for overcoming temptation. When we remind one another of God’s forgiveness, his Word also moves us to forgive as the Lord has forgiven us. A disadvantage is that such a rite may seem impersonal or become over-used and trite.

### **Question 11**

Forgiveness does not automatically release us from earthly consequences; neither does it negate the necessity for accountability. Sinners engaged in sinful habits need help in changing their behavior.

### **Question 12**

One or more of the following may be implemented:

- Internet service could be terminated for a period of time or removed from a person’s computer.
- The computer could be placed in a public area and only accessed when another person is around.
- An understanding can be made that the computer’s history and files may be reviewed by a parent at any time without warning.
- Software can be purchased which will safeguard against accessing certain types of sites. However, such software is not flawless in providing protection.

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- An accountability partner or group may be formed.
- Accountability partners should not only hear about repeated offenses, but also be able to announce God's forgiveness.
- A report of sites accessed can be sent to someone else with the responsibility of "gently" monitoring and assisting (however, the person receiving this information can also be easily tempted, and should also provide outside accountability).

Refer participants to the Appendix, "Accountability and Changing Behavior" on page 15. This is designed to provide a summary of how to address these issues.

## **Leaders' Notes for Lesson 2: Getting to the Heart of Idolatrous Sin**

### **Question 1**

It really began in his heart and mind as he watched Bathsheba bathing.

### **Question 2**

Because he lost his sense of serving and pleasing God above all things, and only desired to serve and please himself.

### **Question 3**

Desire. The desire for sex and intimacy in itself is not sinful (in a marriage relationship).

Demand (self-serving cravings). As he looked at and lusted after a beautiful woman, Bathsheba, he craved sex with her, turning his desire into a demand. He summoned her.

Judgment. Misusing his authority, he had Bathsheba brought to him and was intimate with her even though he knew she was married. David also judged Uriah for not cooperating with David's plan to cover up his sin.

Punishment. David wanted this woman no matter what, so he had Uriah killed.

**NOTE:** Unchecked idolatry always ends up in destruction or death of the idol and/or of the person worshipping the idol. Others are often harmed. Not only did Uriah die, the child born from David and Bathsheba's adultery also died.

### **Question 4**

Some of those who would have known something include:

- the one who reported to David who the woman was;
- the one sent to bring Bathsheba to him;
- Bathsheba herself;
- those who served the banquets, especially those who served wine;
- those who spied on Uriah to make certain he went home and then reported to David;
- Joab, who was to arrange for Uriah's certain death in battle (murder);
- those who brought word of Uriah's death;
- David was King, a public leader who abused his authority. Many must have observed this;
- David totally ignored that God saw everything and was displeased (2 Samuel 11:27).

### **Question 5**

Answers may vary.

**Question 6**

Some of the things mentioned might include time with family and loved ones, grades in school, performance on the job, one's relationship with the Lord, honesty with self and others, etc.

## **Leaders' Notes for Lesson 3: Hope For Healing the Idolatrous Heart**

### **Question 1**

Nathan told David a story that would grab his attention and that he could relate to. Remember that David was once a poor shepherd boy who would know the tenderness of owning a pet lamb. Notice that Nathan did not approach David as a “dirty, rotten sinner.”

### **Question 2**

David's response was, “I have sinned against the Lord.” The truth is that all sin is first and foremost a sin against the Lord (First Commandment).

### **Question 3**

Nathan's immediate response to David's confession was to announce God's forgiveness.

### **Question 4**

The sword (violence) never departed from his house. Calamity came on his own household. His son, born of Bathsheba died.

### **Question 5**

David was spared the customary death penalty for adultery, but most importantly, he was spared the consequences of eternal death.

**NOTE:** We are mistaken when we expect that grace and forgiveness in Christ means that everything in one's life will be put back to the way it once was or should be. We reap what we sow. Even though forgiveness is granted and the eternal consequences are taken away, we may spend the rest of our days living under the painful earthly consequences of foolish, sinful behavior.

## **Leaders' Notes for Lesson 4: Healing a Marriage Wounded by Internet Adultery**

### **Question 1**

Genesis 2:18. Note here that God created woman to be a “helper” for man and not as an object for his lustful pleasure.

Ephesians 5:21-33. Here we have a beautiful picture of reverencing Christ and one another in the marriage relationship. This is sacrificed when one spouse sneaks off in secret to indulge in sexual sin (porneia) on the Internet.

1 Peter 3:7. God would have husbands be “considerate” of their wives (NIV). The KJV translates these words, “giving honor to the wife.” The word has the meaning of understanding, Christian insight, and tact along with a conscious sensitivity to God’s will in the relationship.

Mark 10:6-9. “Let not man separate.” Can we see how one spouse’s involvement with Internet pornography or cybersex can cause such a separation?

### **Question 2**

Some of the hurts and feelings identified might be a sense of betrayal, a sense of abandonment (no time for the spouse), a sense of inadequacy (what’s wrong with me?), anger, disgust, etc.

### **Question 3**

Sometimes when a person feels abandoned or unappreciated or like “they do not matter,” they will turn to another who will listen and give them attention and a sense of worth.

### **Question 4**

You would be able to offer such a person hope for overcoming their struggle by pointing them to Christ and his atoning sacrifice for all our sin and the forgiveness that is theirs in him.

When trapped or caught in sin, a sinner often needs help in getting to the heart issues involved. Notice how God sends such help in the following passages.

2 Samuel 12:1. The Lord sent help to David in the person of Nathan. That is often how God works in our lives as well. A pastor, a close friend, a loved one or another faithful believer is used by God to confront un-confessed, hidden sin.

Galatians 6:1-2. A brother or sister in the faith may gently confront us with our sin and assist us in dealing with it.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13. The way out of a sinful situation may come in many ways. Most often it will be a person who comes. But the way out may be found in a letter, a book, a scripture verse, a sermon or devotion, a film, a radio broadcast, a television show, etc.

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Notice God's response when a sinner confesses his sin in the following verses.

2 Corinthians 2:5-11. The person is to be forgiven and restored to the fellowship.

1 John 1:9. God's response is to forgive.

Proverbs 28:13. Mercy is shown.

Micah 7:18-20. God shows mercy, compassion, and forgiveness.

Psalm 130:3-4 and Isaiah 44:22-23. Forgiveness.

### **Question 5**

Exodus 20:14. The sin of adultery.

Matthew 5:27-28. Lustful looking may well lead to adulterous actions or pornographic activity. Notice where such sin originates, *in the heart*.

Romans 13:13. "Sexual immorality" – the word literally means "illicit sexual intercourse." "Debauchery" – the word contains the idea of shameless greed, animal lust and sheer self-indulgence (idolatry).

1 Peter 2:11. The NIV reads, "abstain from sinful desires." Literally the words translate, "hold yourself away from fleshly lusts" (i.e., impulses that belong to the selfish side of man's nature).

Ephesians 4:25. Here we are reminded to be truthful and not deceptive with one another. Often a person who views Internet pornography deceives those even closest to him so that the sin might be hidden (secret sin).

### **Question 6**

Might include divorce, a stormy relationship, the break-up of a family, or even a new relationship through the process of confession and absolution (forgiveness). When parents fight and tear each other down without reconciliation, other consequences might include harm to the children.

### **Question 7**

He realized that his relationship to God was being hurt by his idolatry of Internet pornography.

### **Question 8**

God's forgiveness through Christ brought him personal peace and hope for the future. While not specifically mentioned in the interview, that same message of God's forgiveness brought hope for his wife as well.

**Question 9**

He realized that because of his sinful actions, he did not deserve forgiveness – from God or his wife. He knew that God forgave him immediately, but he loved his wife enough to allow the time she needed to forgive him. He also accepted the consequence that trust would need to be rebuilt over time. His humility, patient love, and acceptance of the consequences were evidences of the fruit of his repentance; and these actions helped restore trust and love, leading to reconciliation.

**Question 10**

A willingness to be honest about sin before God and one another. Confession, forgiveness, loving patience, and a dependence on God for his grace and endurance.

**Question 11**

Refer to the pamphlet, “Announcing God’s Grace.” Note the different sections for a pastor announcing forgiveness and a fellow Christian (or family member) announcing God’s forgiveness. The section on the first inside page (or page 2 from the pdf copy) describes why announcing God’s grace to one another is so helpful.

## **Leaders' Notes for Lesson 5:**

### **Ministering to Those “Caught” by Internet Pornography**

#### **Question 1**

1 Peter 2:24, Psalm 32:1-5, Isaiah 55:6-7, and Luke 7:47-50. Each one of these sections of Scripture is a clear proclamation of the Gospel. Notice that these are not simply words “about” the Gospel.

#### **Question 2**

Humility and remorse was expressed by the son, not only in his words, but also his tone of voice.

#### **Question 3**

He announced God’s forgiveness in Christ.

#### **Question 4**

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death” (2 Corinthians 7:10). The father heard and saw repentance for sin against God. The announcement of God’s forgiveness is the only thing that will keep the son from complete despair. Since only God can see into another person’s heart, it is best to err on the side of proclaiming Gospel.

#### **Question 5**

Rather than give up in despair, the son, knowing that he is a forgiven child of God, can go on with his life even with the burden of the earthly consequences of the sin.

#### **Question 6**

You would most certainly want to point them to Christ and his forgiving grace and to the strength he gives to overcome sin.

#### **Question 7**

Romans 12:4-8. Each member of the body belongs to all the others and each is gifted in a special way.

Hebrews 10:25. We are to encourage one another.

Galatians 6:1. This verse has been commented on several times in this study.

James 5:19-20. Our actions or our inactions toward one another may have eternal consequences.

2 Corinthians 2:7-8. Being unwilling to forgive may cause excessive sorrow and despair in one’s life.

#### **Question 8**

Matthew 28:20. The Lord is always with us.

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1 John 1:9. God is faithful, just, and forgiving.

Isaiah 26:3-4. Tells us where real peace is found.

Isaiah 41:10. Tells us where our real strength is found.

**Question 9**

Answers will vary.