

Hello, our names are Sarah Stanley and Sid Koop and we are the creators of the "Purity Is Possible" guide that your child's youth worker will be going through with them. As a parent (Sid) whose boys have both been exposed to pornography, let me say that I understand this journey can be difficult and scary, but let me also say that you are incredibly blessed to have a significant older person willing to be a part of the caring community for your child. What a gift. I can't tell you how thankful I am for the older people who have invested in my boys.

There are a few things both Sarah and I would like to make you aware of as your child begins this journey with their leader.

1. Your child's situation is not unique...sort of. Here is what we mean by that. The most recent stats tell us that:

- Between 6 and 12 percent of people aged 13 and older view porn daily;
- 14 to 21 percent view porn weekly
- 13 to 19 percent view it once or twice a month
- 18 to 32 percent view it less often
- Only 17% of people 13 and older say they have never come across porn

(Porn in the Digital Age: New Research Reveals 10

Trends, barna.org).

So, what is not unique is that your child has been exposed to porn. What is unique is that your child is willing to invite someone into their journey, and that they actually have another trusted adult in their life that is committed to walking alongside them.

2. Your child is on a journey. The pursuit of purity, especially in a culture that is hyper sexualized like ours, is exactly that...a journey. There is no "quick fix" solution to this situation, and there will be many ups and downs along the way. When you can, celebrate the "wins" and offer much grace in the "losses". Know that your child is never beyond redemption (1 John 1:8-9), God is for your child, not against your child, and because of the resurrection, and work of the Holy Spirit, we have a lock on hope!

3. Pray. *Pray for your child's youth leader.* Pray God would give them wisdom and discernment. Thank God for their presence. But remember, your youth leader is not a counsellor nor are they a saviour. They are a pastor and a friend, committed to being relationally present. Pray for your child. Pray God would give them courage to be honest and open with their youth leader. Pray that they would be protected from unnecessary shame and guilt. Pray they would know and experience the reality of God's forgiveness and purifying work through Christ's death on the cross. Finally, pray that they would know beyond doubt, that their identity is not based on their experience with pornography, but is rooted in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray also for yourselves. Pray God would give you peace and patience. Pray God will open doors of communication, but also for the wisdom to know when not to push.

4. Don't let this become the defining reality for your child. Your child is made in the image of God. Ephesians 2:10 clearly tells us your child is a masterpiece, and The Creator has a significant plan for their life. Continue to celebrate all of who they are - explore and affirm who God wants your child to become.

5. Your youth worker has committed to a seven session experience with your child. They are committed to communicating with you throughout the journey, while at the same

time guarding the trust your child is placing in them. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call them. Here is an outline of the seven sessions...

- 1: Your Story
- 2: God's Story
- 3: Connecting the Stories
- 4: Avoiding the Traps
- 5: Committing to Accountability
- 6: Pursuing Spiritual Growth
- 7: Learning Discernment

We want to remind you that this experience is not a "formula for success". This is a framework for spiritual mentorship. Our prayer is that this guide will be a foundation for a lifetime of spiritual growth. Know that we are praying for you, your child, and the youth worker who is caring for your child as well. God bless you.

Tools and Resources

Websites

- sexualintegrityinitiative.com (A resource from the Center for Parent and Youth Understanding)
- xxxchurch.com
- covenanteyes.com
- fightthenewdrug.org

Books

- *Closing the Window on Porn*. Tim Chester. IVP Books, 2010.
- *Eyes of Integrity*. Craig Gross & Jason Harper. Baker Books, 2010.
- *Sex is not the problem, Lust Is*. Joshua Harris. Multnomah, 2005.
- *How and When to Tell Your Kids About Sex*. Stan & Brenna Jones. NavPress, 2007.
- *Wired for Intimacy - How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain*. William M. Struthers. IVP Books, 2010.
- *The Purity Principle*. Randy Alcorn. Multnomah, 2003.

Tech-proofing Your Home

- xxxchurch.com
- covenanteyes.com