

# WWW.X-RATED.SIN [vulgarity and pornography]

## THIS WEEK

Today's pop culture is crude and lewd and growing more profane with TV shows, musical groups, and blockbuster hits at the movies. Kids today aren't sheltered. This TalkSheet gives you the opportunity to talk with your kids about the affect that obscenity has on their lives. For more discussion on pornography, look at Smut World (pg. 103).

## OPENER

You may want to ask the group for examples of obscenity in your community, in their lives, at their schools, or from the media. These answers will range from T-shirts with sexually explicit messages to TV programming. From their experiences, how easy is it to access pornographic material? Do they know of a sibling or friend who abuses pornography?

As you open this discussion, do be sensitive to these topics. Some of your kids may be involved with pornography, frequently watch obscenities, or more—you don't want to come off as too judgmental. Challenge the group to handle this discussion honestly and maturely. Be sure to mediate this discussion carefully. Some churches and youth are more open-minded than others.

## THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. If they're honest, some will admit that they've seen objectionable material on the Web. Do they pay attention to the warning signs, if there are any? How would they handle this situation? Do they understand how easy it is to click on the mouse and find these materials?
2. Discuss the different definitions people have of obscenity. Many kids will mention sex in their definition. Make sure you point out that sex and obscenity are not the same. Read a dictionary definition of the word. Webster's New World Dictionary defines it as "offensive to modesty or decency; lewd."
3. Open these statements up to debate, especially if a difference of opinion exists. Several of the questions will promote discussion around the idea of how much society should tolerate. Expect the First Amendment question of freedom to be raised. Does it guarantee total freedom if society has the right to restrict certain things?
4. These tension-getters make great role-play situations as well as discussion starters on how to handle everyday situations involving the obscene. Ask the teens to share their own tension-getters that they have faced. The group can brainstorm Christian responses to these difficult but real dilemmas.

5. Discuss with the students how this verse applies to the pop culture that surrounds them. Why should Christians particularly keep their guard up against pornography?

## THE CLOSE

Point out that standards of decency have eroded because society has allowed them to erode. The obscene no longer exists on the fringes of culture but has become the mainstream. But is that what Christians want? Is that what society wants? Culture will continue its decline as long as it's allowed.

Encourage your kids to get grounded in God. The way to avoid temptation is to ask for God's strength—it's the Holy Spirit that provides self-control and discernment. Close with a time of prayer and challenge your kids to ask God for strength and forgiveness.

## MORE

- You may want to ask your group to think of an average young teenager—both a guy and a girl. What are some of the attitudes and behaviors of this average high schooler? What do they watch, listen to, or hear? Mention things that your kids have brought up during your discussion (things like viewing R-rated movies, reading dirty jokes, using vulgar language, and so on). How does getting hooked on vulgarity and pornography alter someone's life? Ask the group to predict the kind of life this person may live as they grow older—
  - ⇒ What kind of relationship with God will they have?
  - ⇒ What kind of parent will they be?
  - ⇒ What kind of values will they adopt?
  - ⇒ How will this person treat others?
  - ⇒ How will they handle dating relationships?
  - ⇒ What will they teach their kids about vulgarity and pornography?
- You may want to talk with your group about how to handle pornography. It is an addiction—in a sense, a visual drug. Teenage boys in particular struggle with these temptations. Discuss how easy it is to get hooked and what the dangers are. How does pornography affect their relationships? How they see the opposite sex? What they think of love and intercourse? Challenge your kids to seek out help if they or a friend are caught in a web of pornography. They must find another trusted person to talk with. For more information, check out Caught By the Web ([www.caught-bytheweb.com](http://www.caught-bytheweb.com)), Focus on the Family's resources ([www.pureintimacy.org](http://www.pureintimacy.org)), or Breaking Free From Pornography ([www.porn-free.org](http://www.porn-free.org)). These are Christian links—if you search for pornography in a general search engine, you may land up with some not-so-helpful, unhealthy links!