



SPIRIT CHALLENGE

Clean Thinking

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A ctivity

Commander / Leader: Let each person guess the number of visually stimulating images they see on an average day.

B iblical Insight

Is victory over temptation simply a matter of resolve? David was a righteous man whom God called “a man after my own heart” (Acts 13:22). He had a rich history of triumphing over temptations and had accumulated many victories because of his loyalty to God and his unconquerable faith in God’s power to sustain him. Yet, when David accidentally saw Bathsheba bathing, he chose to fix his eyes and mind on her (2 Samuel 11:2). Lust overshadowed moral conviction, and his former resolve was not strong enough to restrain the

forces of sexual temptation to which he had subjected himself.

By contrast, when Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce Joseph in Genesis 39:6–12, he didn’t ask himself, *How far can I go without sinning?* Joseph refused to do what many people do—overestimate their ability to resist sexual temptation. He knew his vulnerabilities, and he determined immediately to put as much distance as he could between himself and sin. If Joseph had to run like that, no wonder Paul warned the Corinthian Christians to “flee from sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18). And while we are running, we need to focus our thoughts on the God we are running to, (Philippians 4:8)!

C omposition

The term “pornography” originally described prostitutes and their trade. Today it refers to illicit films, photos, writings, etc., designed specifically to erotically arouse sexual desire. Internet pornography is always just one click away. Porn is a multibillion-dollar-a-year business. Read 1 John 2:16 and identify where porn came from and how it is fueled.

D iscussion

The Bible forbids lustful thoughts and actions, such as using pornography. From Job 31:1–4, discuss the consequences of visual stimulation, and Job’s personal resolve.

E valuation

What can you do to help protect yourself from lust?

Lesson 70

- A: Answers will vary.
- C: Our flesh needs constant feeding. It is sin that wants to sin more to feed the cravings.
- D: Job resolved never to look lustfully at a woman. He knew lust would result in ruin and that God sees even the briefest lustful glance.

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