

## Click Here for Damage: The Problem with Porn

Date: Saturday, May 5 + Sunday, May 6

Teacher: Lily Smith

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Good evening/morning Grace Youth “Fam”! To kick things off with you guys today I want to share a video with you. This video is going to give you a glimpse right away of what we are going to be talking about this month at Grace Youth!

**Play Video:** <https://fightthenewdrug.org/we-need-to-talk/>

This month we are going to be talking about purity and pornography here at Grace Youth. We are starting a new series this month – it’s been very anticipated and perhaps you’ve heard about it already - that we are calling “Click Here for Damage”.

Throughout the whole month of May, we are going to cover as much as we can about pornography and begin asking and answering questions like: what is pornography? How does it hurt your heart? How does it change the way you actually think and function? What are the impacts it has across the globe? How does it affect guys? How does it affect girls? Why are we drawn to it? How does it sabotage your relationships, both now and in the future?

As you can see, this is going to be a packed month; but this is all good stuff and important that we take time to talk about, amen?

But today, to start us off, I want to talk about Jesus. Seems like a pretty good place to start, right? I want to talk about the role that Jesus plays in the struggle, temptation, and sin of pornography. Does that sound like a good plan?

But before *any* of that, let’s pray. (*Pray intentionally for maturity, the Lord to guide my words, for God to relate to them individually where they are at, and protection because the enemy definitely doesn’t want us talking about this with young believers*).

Let’s start by clearing up a few things first, so that we are all on the same page this whole month as we move through “Click Here for Damage”. This is a heavy topic to dive into, and there is a lot to say when it comes to a conversation about pornography, so I want us all to know and understand what we are talking about.

Let’s start by answering the question: “What is pornography?” (What a question to be asking in church, right? But this is GOOD! This is where we should be asking questions like this. You should never feel ashamed to ask a question here).

**So what is porn? “Printed or visual material that contains the explicit description or display of sexual body parts or activity, intended to cause sexual excitement”.**

That’s the fancy dictionary definition; but whenever we talk about pornography in this series we are referring to: **“magazines, videos, websites, text messages, and even some romance novels or teen fiction that are sexually explicit with content of**

**individuals naked or engaging in sexual activities; this could also include some internet memes (that encourage pornographic fantasies in your mind); pornography can even be in your imagination as well.”**

Pornography is a big issue. I want to \*try\* to paint a picture on why this is an issue and what we’re dealing with here, really quickly, so that you guys can see the vision behind doing “Click Here for Damage”. I want to share some statistics and facts with “y’all” really quickly. Just listen as I read these:

1. The average age of first exposure to pornography is 11 years old.
2. 32 percent of teens admit to intentionally accessing pornography online. Of these, 43 percent do so on a weekly basis.
3. 93 percent of boys and 62 percent of girls have seen online pornography before age 18.
4. Almost half of teens say “sending sexual or naked photos or videos is a part of everyday life for teens nowadays”.

Listen to those statistics. *That* is why we are taking on this topic with you guys. And I wanted to share those to make a few things clear to you as we start this series today: 1. This is not just a boy issue. This is for guys *and* girls. This is for *everyone*. 2. If you are viewing pornography or addicted to pornography, you are *not* the only one. You are not isolated in this struggle. Clearly, there is a huge chunk of young - and old - people battling this too. Don’t believe the lie that you are the only one. 3. This is something that is taking over our world. And we want to equip you, educate you, and stand with you so that you can stand strong against all of *that*. Scripture tells us to be *on guard* and *stand firm*, and this is one way we can do that. This is why we are doing this series this month.

To kick-off this series for us today, we are going to be looking at how *Jesus* fits into all of *THAT* (woah, right?). In order to do that, there is a question I want to keep at the front and center of our minds for the next 10-15 minutes. Are you ready for that question?

**The question I want us all to ask today is: When I give Jesus my sin and temptation and shame - or even when I give him my questions or curiosities - what does He have for me in return?**

Remember this question as we get into the Scripture and continue to talk more about purity and pornography: “*Jesus, what do you have for me in return?*”

So now that we have our question ready - “Jesus, what do you have for me in return?” - let’s dive into the Word of God and see how all of this fits together. Everyone turn to John 4.

Here in the Book of John we are going to be looking at an encounter between Jesus, the Son of God, and a woman standing at a well, going’ about her daily activity.

**Read: John 4:1-15** (*summarize/clarify/point out some things in passage as I read*)

So what we have here is Jesus, who we know is the anointed Savior of the world, traveling through a place called Samaria. Everyone say, “*Samaria*”. Jesus is traveling through a Samaritan village and he gets a little thirsty - because we know that Jesus is fully-God *AND* fully-man so the guy has to drink some water to keep his human side happy and thriving, just like you and me.

So he finds a nice, historic, well – a well is where they used to take their buckets and drop them way down to get water, because they didn't have just taps where you could fill up a water bottle in their kitchen sink - and sits down around noon. And he is just chilling and waiting.

Then the scripture says that pretty soon, a Samaritan woman comes along to fill up her bucket with water, and Jesus asks her a question. What does he ask her for? *A drink of water.*

Now, the woman is a little hesitant and “weirded-out” at first. Why? Let's look at verse 9 really quickly: “*The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘how is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?’*” - Let's understand this relationship really quick: Jewish people and Samaritan people were known for not really liking each other. It's like the Bloods and the Crips. (I am definitely referencing gang culture in church right now, but it's the best analogy I could think of!) We all know that the “Blood Gang” and the “Crip Gang” do not get along. There is a lot of hostility and hate and conflict. It's the same with Samaritans and Jews; there was a ton of ethnic hostility, religious hostility, and political hostility going on between these two people-groups at this time.

This woman knows this and is like, “Hold up! First off: why are you, a Jew, even talking to me, a Samaritan?!?” This would be like a Blood walking up to a Crip (back to our gang-member analogy again, but we're just going to roll with this one - and even gang members are welcome by God) and sees him drinking a Coca-Cola and asks, “Hey man, can I get a sip of that?” The other dude would be SO confused and caught off guard, because he knows that they aren't supposed to be cool with each other like that.

But we see that Jesus just keeps rolling with it, and he responds to the woman: “*If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink’, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water*”. - If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me your addiction to pornography”. If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me your temptation to look at nude photos”. We're just jumping right into this now I guess; Jesus didn't hesitate to get deep out of nowhere, so we aren't either!

Jesus is standing at this meeting point with you - just as he stood at this meeting place of this well with the Samaritan woman - and He is saying to you, “Give me that thing you keep coming back to”. It can be many things on many days, but today we are looking at the problem of porn. Jesus is saying, “Give me your temptation to look at pornography” - “Give me the months of addiction to porn that you have” - “Give me the shame you carry

from looking at that website” - “Give me the questions you are thinking about pornography” - “Give me the curiosities you have with pornography” - whatever it is, Jesus is standing in front of you with an opportunity, saying “give it to me - this ‘water’ that will run out, that will leave you thirsty, that won’t last you until tomorrow - hand it over to me”.

And at first, the Samaritan woman doesn't understand what Jesus is talking about. (That happens a lot to us as well, right? We will read something in the bible and have *no clue* what it means – am I the only one?) So we know where she is coming from. She is a little confused, so she tries to clear it up. She doesn't realize that Jesus isn't actually talking about literal drinking water. She's standing there thinking, *“I don't get it - how is your water any better than my water? You're the one that asked me to give you some water, but now you apparently have something better than I do? You don't even “got” a bucket to get some water to give me!”* And you can tell - or at least I think I can tell as a woman that's had a long day hauling water back and forth and is thirsty and probably hangry cause it's noon and its lunchtime and she don't have time for all of this - that she starts to catch an attitude with Jesus. In verse 12 she “like”, *“And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? Now you're trying to tell me you have better water than what I already “got”? You don't even have a bucket, “bro”.”*

But this woman is really wondering the question that we've all asked and wondered before: Is the stuff that this guy named Jesus is offering me better than what I already have? Is this stuff really “for real”? Perhaps you might have thought that very question earlier. When I told you that question we were going to be asking today - who remembers the question? Jesus, what do you have for me in return? - did you ask yourself, *“Does he actually have something for me in return? And is what He has for me in return better than what I'm handing over?”*

It's the question we always want to know: what, if anything, do I get in return? Is what I'm handing over going to give me something better than what I already have?

Jesus answers her question. Jesus lets her - and me and you - know: **“Everyone who drinks of that water (the one you go to every day, day after day, that old well) will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again” (verse 13-14).**

I think the cool thing about Jesus is that he always has something greater in return. It's not like you hand it over to Jesus, and in return he leaves you thirsty and run dry - that's not what happens. It's not like Jesus says, “Hey that crap water you have? Give it to me, ‘cause it's not the best stuff” - and then you back hands nothing in return and walks away with your bucket.

Jesus gives her, in return, a source of satisfaction - because that's what she really wanted, right? That's why she was at the well in the first place, to quench a thirst ‘cause she was thirsty. She wound up at the well to satisfy her thirst.

And isn't that why people turn to pornography, too? To seek satisfaction and quench a thirst. You are thirsty, and so you turn to your phone or computer to quench that thirst. You want to satisfy the loneliness. Satisfy the anxiety. Satisfy that shame. Satisfy the self-hate. Satisfy that questions. Satisfy the break-up. Satisfy the temptation. Satisfy the lust. Satisfy the desire. We're *all* always seeking satisfaction to quench a thirst. Whether that comes in the form of pornography - or gossip, or anger, or popularity, or alcohol, or money, or food, - you can fill in your own blank, but today I am filling in the blank with pornography. We seek to satisfy a thirst in our soul. That's how this woman wound up at the well. She was thirsty; physically - and spiritually - thirsty (you'll see how she was spiritually thirsty if you continue to read into her story).

But Jesus recognizes her thirst, and sees her seeking to satisfy, and offers her a *GREATER* source of satisfaction than the one she is used to turning to. He tells her the obvious: "that water you're about to drink, it will make you thirsty again."

It's almost like this: have you ever felt like you were starving and you haven't eaten in a while, but finally you are able to get to the front of the ridiculously long line at Pancake House. And you get your booth, and take your order, and the food takes forever cause half of Michigan is in Pancake House, and you order that fancy crepe-thing that takes an extra 35 minutes to make, and you're *just so hungry*. And finally you get your food. And you eat. You "chow-down" and enjoy every last bit of it. And you were *SO* hungry 5 minutes ago, but now you swear that you are never going to eat again. Like you've got the whole "food baby" going. You are *STUFFED*. You tell your friends, "I am not eating for the rest of the day or my life. My diet starts *now*. I am so full". You *were* complaining about how hungry you were, and *now* you're complaining about how full you are. And so you go home. And an hour or two later - you're hungry again. And you say, "Okay, forget that whole 'never-eating-again-diet-starts-today-thing'. I was just kidding. 'Cause I'm hungry." We've all been there!

Jesus knows that and recognizes that. He tells her: that water you're about to drink, it will make you thirsty again. Just like at Pancake House or last thanksgiving. It's never going to be enough, and eventually, you'll find yourself back here.

And that's why turning to the one that can truly satisfy is so important. That pornography you're about to watch - you will feel lonely again. That website you're about to log into - you will feel empty again. That video you're about to click on - you will feel broken when it's done. That pic from your friend you're about to look at - you will feel sad again. You will feel the shame and guilt again.

I remember being in middle school and experiencing that shame and guilt. I was in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and I somehow came across this book in the school library (I don't remember how I wound up finding this book in the first place) that was a basic fiction-teen-novel-love-story. But in the book, there were parts of the story that, looking back, *was* pornographic, because there was descriptions of sexual activity between the characters in the book. It wasn't a video or a picture, but it was pornography through writing. And I

remember standing in the library in between the shelves just reading that over, and over again. Then the next day I went back to the library and re-read those pages. And then looked for other books by that author, because *maybe* other books by the same author would have more stuff like that. But then I remember feeling so guilty and shameful for having sought out these books and for reading it over and over again. I was filled with shame and guilt for what I had done. The momentary curiosity and pleasure brought horrible feelings of shame that lasted much longer after.

When we turn to things of this world – like pornography – we will always be left feeling hungry again, hurting again, guilty again, broken again, lost again, lonely again, angry again, and thirsty again. But Jesus says, “Whoever drinks of the water that I will give them will *never be thirsty again!*” (verse 14)

That’s the promise of God. The ways of this world will leave you thirsty. Pornography will satisfy a momentary thirst, but you will turn right back around and need more, and more, and more, because the ways of this world can *never* satisfy. But Jesus offers us something better.

So when we take our bucket that is empty, and choose to turn from the deep, deep well of pornography, and instead turn to Jesus to hand him over our bucket and ask: Here it is God, what do you have for me in return?

He will hand you back a bucket that is *overflowing* with every good thing that sin would have robbed you of. He will hand you back a bucket that is overflowing with healthy relationships as the Father designed them to be, a bucket without shame, without fear, without having to hide in the dark, a bucket without guilt, a bucket overflowing with freedom.

John 10:10 tells us, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”. The truth is that the enemy is going to use pornography to steal, kill, and destroy in any way he can - he already has been; perhaps you see the effects of that among your friends, in your family, or in your own life. But the truth is that Jesus is standing at the well, ready to give you an abundant life in him, filled to the rim, overflowing.

This series, “Click Here for Damage”, was not designed or created in order to bring shame or condemnation, or to scare or intimidate. Instead, this series is an *opportunity* for us all to experience more of what Jesus has for us. Psalm 107 tells us that Jesus *satisfies the longing soul, and fills it with good things.*

And so the challenge for you today as we head into the series this month: are you ready to hand over your bucket - with all of its temptation, fear, shame, questions, curiosities, loneliness, guilt, lust - to Jesus, in exchange for what he has for you in return that is so much better?