

Awaken Parent Letter

Hello Parents! We will be entering into a new series on April 10. **Red Flags, Respect, and Relationships** is a series that discusses sexual integrity from a biblical perspective. It focuses on where we place our desires and what values we find in our hearts, and how those things can affect our interactions with other people and how we respect ourselves. We are letting parents know in advance so they can make the best decision for their child. As always, we want to partner with parents as they disciple their kids.

For the following 4 weeks, these will be the topics of our lessons and small group discussions at Awaken:

- April 10: God cares about what we do with our desires.
- April 17: God cares about what we do with our freedom.
- April 24: God cares about how we value ourselves and others.
- May 1: God cares about us demonstrating love before looking for love.

This series does not directly discuss pornography, but we acknowledge that it's a major issue even among kids this young. Because of this, we think the topic of relationships (and addressing how we need to view others and ourselves with respect) is worth talking about at church. We'd also like to provide some resources so that you, as parents, can make educated decisions for your child. Take a moment to read the Fast Facts about porn.

We are not sharing these facts to breed fear and mistrust, but to present the realities of porn and how it has changed our culture's interactions and relationships with other people. And since this is a reality for our students (and is accessible whether they have their own phone and/or computer), we feel it is necessary to discuss at church. No parent can perfectly protect their child from the influence of sin in this world, and we'd like to partner with you as you equip and prepare your children to appropriately confront and respond to this specific subject.

Fast Facts
ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY.

In a 2020 study, 75% of parents believed their child had never encountered porn. But in reality, **53% of those parents' children reported that they had seen porn.**

(BBFC, 2020) **CITATIONS & MORE →**

Fast Facts
ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY.

Of the adolescents who had been exposed to porn, **28% were first exposed by accident, 19% were unexpectedly shown pornography by someone else, and only 19% searched for it intentionally,** according to research by the NSPCC.

(Martellozzo, Monaghan, Adler, Davidson, Leyva, & Horvath, 2016) **CITATIONS & MORE →**

The world is speaking loudly on what relationships should be, and how we should treat others and ourselves, but the truth of God speaks with more authority. Based on the statistics of exposure that kids have to the world's perspective, we believe it's worthwhile to directly discuss this topic at church, to ensure that your students are hearing biblical truth confirmed at church.

- Pastor Joel

For more information about pornography and research on its effects, prevention, and recovery, visit the websites below.

Fight the New Drug - provides studies and research on the prevalence and impact of porn.

Exodus Cry - provides information on the porn industry and updates on how they've been working to fight some of the largest producers.

The Victory Collective - porn recovery resources

Protect Young Eyes - preventative technology resources for parents