

Ongoing conversations as children mature will enrich and educate them so they will be equipped to deal with whatever they may encounter on the internet or other sources.



### *Guiding principles when talking to kids about pornography*

1. Commit to an ongoing dialogue with your children that is layered with your values.
2. Be direct, honest, and nonjudgmental.
3. Be calm.
4. Be prepared to discover your child has been exposed to pornography and may be dealing with this problem.
5. Be an example.

### *What to do when children encounter pornography*

1. Name it (identify it as pornography).
2. Cover your eyes and/or ears as quickly as you can.
3. Identify the lie and opposing truth about sexuality.
4. Tell someone about the exposure as soon as possible.
5. Turn to something positive, uplifting, and wholesome to refocus your mind body and spirit.
6. Learn from the experience and identify ways that it might be avoided in the future.

*Jill Manning, What's the Big Deal About Pornography? 2008, p. 8*

### *Role-play and conversation ideas*

#### *Situation:*

You're sitting at your desk and a friend comes over and sticks a cellphone in front of you and says, "Hey, look at this!" It is a pornographic image. What do you do?

#### *Conversations:*

1. Have you heard about pornography? Do you know what it is?
2. Why is modesty important? How can we show respect for our bodies and for others' bodies?
3. I saw something on the internet that made me embarrassed/sad/scared/uncomfortable. What do you do when that happens to you? Who can you talk to about that?
4. I did an internet search and accidentally saw pictures of nude men and women. What can we do when that happens? *[Review the steps listed above.]*
5. I saw some friends looking at pictures I found disrespectful because they showed naked people. What would you have done?
6. I hear so much about pornography today, what kind of problem is that at your school?
7. Sometimes kids see pornography accidentally or when friends show them things. When was the last time you saw pornography? Tell me about it.
8. What do your friends think about pornography?
9. What could you say to a friend who wanted to show you pornography or anything else you know you shouldn't

We have to recognize that today's children and youth live in a highly sexualized media culture where the lines between pornography and popular entertainment have become increasingly blurred.