

THE GAMES WE PLAY

The Games We Play—Week Three: Risk (Lust)

CONNECT: Talk about a time you went too far in pursuit of the wrong goal. Did you attain it? When did you notice the target you were aiming for might not be such a good thing? Share what you learned and talk about any consequences you faced.

GROW:

1. **Review the account in 2 Samuel 11 and 12.** Whether you scan the details or read the entire two chapters, we see a clear picture of the way the game of *RISK* highlights our ravenous self-centered appetites.
 - a. There's a pattern in David's sexual sin: *See, Desire, Take*. How have you seen this pattern in your own life, whether sexually or otherwise?
 - b. Talk about strategies to recognize this pattern early and how you can respond to stop it in its tracks.
2. ***What you feed grows. What you starve dies.*** How does this principle apply to our conversation about *Lust*?
3. ***Lust is the process of feeding and nurturing misplaced sexual desires.*** What does the snowball effect of *More is Better* look like? How does it spiral downward into sin patterns?
4. **Read Matthew 5:27-30.** Why do extreme circumstances require such extreme measures? Whether it's limiting your phone or computer access, opening yourself up to accountability—or something else... what "extreme measures" have you taken in your life to pursue holiness?
5. ***The further we have departed from God's plan and intentions for us the more disorder and dysfunction we have experienced.*** Do you know someone who has walked this path? Have you experienced this firsthand? Share the story (don't share names if it's someone else's story) and talk about what you noticed about the way it played out. What did you—or what can you—learn from it?
6. **Read John 10:10.** How does the enemy seek to steal, kill, and destroy through twisting the gift of sex to bring about destruction instead? Talk about how God intends sex to be a gift.
7. Share your gut-honest answers to these questions:
 - a. If lust and pornography are a struggle why do you have a smart phone?
 - b. Is Netflix or another streaming service feeding your sexual desires and fueling lust?
8. Are you married—or hope to be one day? Talk about these questions:
 - a. How much of your resources are spent nurturing and protecting your marriage?
 - b. Which is more important, your smartphone or your marriage?
 - c. Is the presence of social media in your life worth sacrificing your marriage for?

PRAY: *Sexual revolution leads to sexual recession. What we need is sexual redemption.* Was anything new or surprising to you as you heard this message? How have you observed the revolution, recession, and redemption in your life or the lives of those around you? Pray and ask God to lead you and the people you love into a place of redemption in this aspect of your lives.

NEXT: **Read Romans 8:31-39.** We need a daily reminder of two things: the depth of our sin *and* the depths of God's grace. How does this help us live in a manner that brings joy to God, to us, and to others? Talk about your answers to this question with a trusted friend.