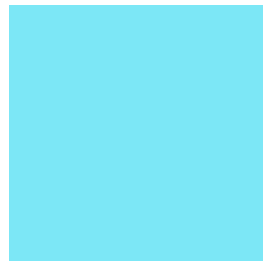
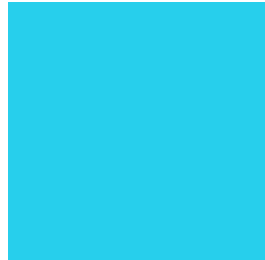
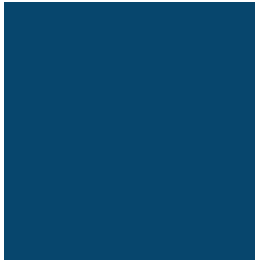
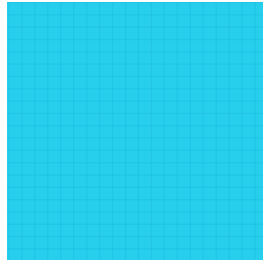


PARENTING THE INTERNET GENERATION

CHAPTER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BOOKLET





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Introduction

These chapter discussion questions accompany the *Parenting the Internet Generation* e-book from Covenant Eyes. We hope they encourage a deeper application of the concepts contained in the e-book. These discussion questions can be used to enhance an individual study, or even in an adult small group as part of a multi-week study.

However you choose to use these questions, please know that the content has been carefully and prayerfully created. We understand how important this topic is. After all, we've been helping families create safer online experiences for over 15 years with our cutting-edge accountability and filtering solutions. We want to do whatever we can to help you create a culture of accountability in your own home. Please enjoy *Parenting the Internet Generation*.

Chapter 1- Diving In:



1. What do you hope to learn from *Parenting the Internet Generation*? List three things here:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2. How will you stay accountable to completing each of the chapters and videos? Will it be difficult?

3. How easy was it to access pornography when you were a teen?

4. What sorts of challenges do kids face today because of technology? How is it different from your own childhood?

5. “It is not an overstatement to say that in today’s world, porn has become the norm.” What is your first reaction when you read that statement? What fears well up as you think about raising your children in a world where “porn has become the norm”?

6. “While current research suggests there are many parents concerned about these topics, the same research also shows this concern doesn’t translate into action.” On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being “We never talk about appropriate use of technology” and 5 being “We consistently have family conversations about appropriate use of technology,” how would you rate your level of action on digital topics?

7. Ephesians 5:13 says, “But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible.” Why is it important to keep technology use in the light?


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8. After visiting the school in England, former lads' magazine editor Martin Daubney came to this conclusion, "By talking to them, they stand a chance. If we stick our head in the sand, we are fooling only ourselves." How prepared do you feel for having conversations about appropriate use of technology, including pornography?
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Verse to Claim and Remember: "For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8 (ESV)

Application: Here's a question you could ask your kids: "The Bible tells us to live as children of light. What does it mean to be a child of light? How can we live in the light with how we use technology? With how you use your [XBOX, iPad, etc.]?" Be sure to share any application ideas that you might have through the closed Facebook group called "Parenting the Internet Generation".

Pray It Out: Our God, we are venturing into enemy territory and so we ask you to be our strength and our shield (Psalm 28:7). The enemy is fighting hard to claim the hearts and minds of our kids through their technology. The Internet can be such a huge blessing. We can spread the Good News of Jesus Christ like never before! But, like anything that is good, we know that evil wants to twist and turn it in a deadly direction. Lord, give us the wisdom and the perseverance to parent well in this digital age. We know that we can't do it without you. Bless us now in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Chapter 2- Diving In:

- 
1. Take an honest look at your home. Not just the condition of the roof, or the age of the furnace, but think about the attitudes that are prevalent, day after day, in your home. Write down 1-2 words that describe the current emotional, spiritual, and relational state of your home.

► Emotional: _____

► Spiritual: _____

► Relational: _____

2. When looking at the four walls of our “home,” namely, self-image, sexuality, sin and shame, what kinds of conversations did your parents have with you on these topics?

3. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

This passage is foundational to Judaism. Verse 4 is referred to as the Shema, the central truth of the Jewish faith, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” This is the first prayer taught to Jewish children and it is repeated at the start and end of every day. What can Christian families learn from this level of “impress them on your children” that is instructed in Deuteronomy 6:7?

4. How do you strike a balance between showing your children how to live “in” the world, and yet try to insulate them from the world’s ways?

Verse to Claim and Remember: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Deuteronomy 6:5 (ESV)

Application: In Deuteronomy 6:5, God says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Later it says to “tie” these words as symbols on your hands and on your foreheads. How could you have fun with this “tie” concept with your kids? Be sure to share any application ideas that you might have through the closed Facebook group called “Parenting the Internet Generation”.

Pray It Out: Father God, we deeply desire to raise our children in a way that honors you. Yet, right now, we ask for your forgiveness for not embracing this call to action. We confess that we have missed moments to “impress” your commandments on the hearts of our children. Through this study, we are deciding to take action. We are asking for your help. Bless us now in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Chapter 3 - Diving In:



1. Think back to when you were in junior high (horrible, we know!). Fill in the blanks:

- When I was in junior high, I looked in the mirror and wished _____

- When I was in junior high, my self-image was _____

2. Do you have any attitudes or behaviors that started when you were a tween or teen that still linger today? Can you share those?

3. At the beginning of the chapter, we read that Adam and Eve were created as living representatives of God, “statues of God walking about in the Garden.” What does it mean to you to be a “living representative” of God?

4. Ephesians 4:20-24 says, “But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Since it is impossible to be equal to God, what do you think the writer means when he says, “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”?

5. During the past week, in what ways have you witnessed the “pornification” of culture?

6. In what ways do you portray a positive body image to your children?

7. Every parent is probably guilty of overusing words-based praise with their children from time to time with phrases like, “You’re so smart” or “I’m so proud of what you did.” In what ways have you used phrases like this with your children? What will you change, if anything, going forward?

8. 1 John 3:2-3 says, “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

► Write down three ways your home could be more pure:

1.

2.

3.

► In what ways could you, individually, purify yourself?

Verse to Claim and Remember: “...but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” 1 John 3:2 (ESV)

Application: Maybe it's time for a family movie night! Disney's *Inside Out* provides an amazing opportunity to discuss how Riley's self-image directed her behavior. For an opportunity to talk about “real beauty,” consider watching one of Dove's “Campaign for Real Beauty” videos on YouTube to spur discussion with your tween or teen daughter.

For either gender, considering listening to Big Daddy Weave's "Audience of One" and ask, "What does it mean to seek God's face?" "How can we seek God's face with how we use our technology?" Be sure to share any application ideas that you might have through the closed Facebook group called "Parenting the Internet Generation".

Pray It Out: Heavenly Father, there is nothing more essential to my understanding of faith than grasping the fact that I am made in your image. What if I parented with confidence, knowing this were true? Lord, give me a deeper knowledge of your image and what it means to be your image-bearer as I guide my children into relationship with you. Bless us now in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Chapter 4 - Diving In:



1. In Genesis 1:28, immediately after God creates mankind, He says to Adam and Eve, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it.” How do you feel knowing that God’s first command to the human race was to have sex and procreate?

2. With this in mind, really think deeply. Why do many Christians treat discussions about sex and sexuality with such disdain and secrecy? What might this attitude communicate to our children about sex?

3. Where did you obtain most of your understanding of sex and sexuality? How did this understanding impact your relationships, including your marriage?

4. The Bible tells us that man will hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become “one flesh.” How would you describe a couple that is operating in a “one flesh” relationship?

5. Of the three purposes of sex: life, pleasure, and oneness, which one is most difficult for you to process or discuss openly? How might this impact how you teach your children about God’s plan for sex?

6. More than a few parents feel squeamish about using the real names for body parts with young children. Have a good laugh with your group and talk about your family’s own practice here.

7. The Sex Ed Conversation Guides recommend using the word pornography with children at a fairly young age. How do you feel about this? What is the appropriate age to begin these conversations? Why do you feel this way?




Verse to Claim and Remember: “So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” Matthew 19:6 (ESV)

Application: Please check out the “Sex Ed: Stage by Stage” in Appendix A and pray for a window to have these conversations. Maybe share your experience in having these conversations in our closed Facebook group called “Parenting the Internet Generation.”

Pray It Out: Heavenly Father, now we are traveling into uncomfortable territory for some of us. God, we know that you invented sex to be a life-giving, pleasurable, spouse-cementing activity. Forgive us now for the times that we have mistreated this gift. Show us natural, intentional ways that we can build healthy conversations about sex and sexuality into the hearts and minds of our children. Bless us now in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Chapter 5 - Diving In:

- 
1. Have you ever thought about the fact that there was no "sinful nature excuse" when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit? Ultimately, they sinned because they started to believe that God was holding out on them, not looking out for their best interest. How can technology prey on this way of thinking in our children? How can this way of thinking warp our kids' attitudes about sex and sexuality?

2. Genesis gives us a picture into the hearts of Adam and Eve and from Genesis 3, we see three desires pulling at Eve's heart: the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes and the pride of life. Which one of these areas causes you to trip up most often?

3. Have you started to see any tendencies in any of your children towards the desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes or the pride of life? What, if anything, have you tried in order to curb these desires and/or direct them towards a holy purpose? What can you do going forward?

4. Go back and reread each of the paragraphs with a sample conversation you could have with your son/daughter. When you do that, circle the words that stand out to you as most significant for your specific situation.

5. The e-book reminds us that we live in a relativistic culture, where everything is truth and to draw a line defines you as narrow-minded and ignorant. On the other hand, a heavy-handed parenting style can turn the Bible into an “oppressive list of rules.” How do you strike a balance between grace and truth with how you parent?

6. “If our sin is small, then our Savior must be small. But, if our sin is outright rebellion, then our Savior must be a true rescuer.” In what ways have you made Jesus small in how you’ve parented? How can you turn that around right now?

7. If you have a tween or teen, have you ever directly asked him/her, “Have you ever seen pornography?” What would you say if he/she said, “yes”? Are you ready for that conversation?

Verse to Claim and Remember: “Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.” John 6:27 (ESV)

Application: For preschool and elementary school aged children, the *Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones is an excellent, age-appropriate translation for sharing God’s story and explaining to your children how Adam and Eve’s choice invited sin into the world. Be sure to share any application ideas that you might have through the closed Facebook group called “Parenting the Internet Generation”.

Pray It Out: Heavenly Father, too many times we have acted as if we thought we were our own savior. That we know best. That we have all the answers. Our pride sometimes deceives us, and we do not want our children to acquire these same tendencies. May we use words that point their desires towards their Creator, so that they fall deeper and deeper in love with You. May we strike a balance in our parenting between grace and truth just like Jesus showed us. Bless us now in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Chapter 6 - Diving In:



1. Guilt is realizing that you've failed, while shame is seeing yourself as a failure. Explain the difference between these two ways of thinking.

2. In what ways did shame impact your formative years? (Think middle and high school in particular.)

3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-6. In verse 5, Paul says “I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers?” What an interesting thing to say! Why would Paul deliberately use shame in making his point?

4. “In reality, shame is not the enemy. The real enemy is our response to shame.” What does our response to shame communicate to the world around us about our faith? About Jesus?

5. Our culture greatly values and rewards performance—travel sports teams, advance placement classes, competitive scholarships. How do parents use shame in these situations with their children?

6. In Genesis 3:7, we read, “The eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.” In other words, as soon as the door of sin was blown open, it seems shame came right with it. What does this tell you about shame and sexuality? How are the two connected?

7. Think for a moment about how you parent your children. Are there any tendencies in your parenting that lean towards a shame-based approach?

8. If you're a parent, in what ways have you seen the hide, blame, and cover characteristics in your own children? Any good stories?

9. Many articles have been written about the impact of "helicopter parenting" on our kids, and now, we've seen an even more protective breed of parent called the "lawn mower parent." This is the parent who not only hovers over every situation, but now mom and dad actually mow down every obstacle so that their child doesn't experience any hardship or difficulty. Compare and contrast this form of parenting with a parenting style that embraces loving accountability.

10. Psychologist Al Cooper says that inappropriate Internet behavior is fueled by a triple-A battery: accessibility, affordability, and anonymity. Which of these “A” words feels most significant to you? Which feels like the greatest contributor to the porn issue?

11. *Jesus is not ashamed.* Let that sink in. Nor does He cast any shame on you. What would change about you if you truly embraced and believed this? By truly knowing this, what kind of impact would it have on your parenting?

Verse to Claim and Remember: “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
John 3:17 (ESV)

Pray It Out: God our Father, you are the God of new beginnings, of fresh starts, and of freedom. We claim this freedom now and ask that your mercy and grace fill every part of our lives, including how we parent. May we recognize all tendencies we might have to use shame in how we treat our children. We want more than anything to reflect who you are to them, and so please guide us now in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Chapter 7 - Diving In:



1. Take a look back over what we've covered so far. What has been the most significant realization for you? Is there something specific God has revealed to you during the past couple of weeks?

2. How do you manage screen time in your home? Does it feel like a runaway train at times? What kinds of rules have worked well for your family?

3. As you look at the list of privacy rules on page 77, which of these have been covered in conversations in your home and how did the conversation go?

4. When you were growing up, did your parents teach you about strangers? How does the conversation about strangers change with technology in the home and constantly in their hands?

5. How would you rate your knowledge of how parental controls work on each of these devices in your home?

- ▶ Computer/laptops: _____
- ▶ Tablets: _____
- ▶ Smartphones: _____
- ▶ Wireless router: _____

6. What accountability or filtering software do you currently use as a family? If you don't use anything, could Covenant Eyes be a possible solution?

7. "Parents, remember, while these safety features take time to set up properly, your child's innocence is worth the time and cost." What specific steps can you take this week to enhance the level of Internet safety in your home?

8. Wearing a bulletproof vest doesn't eliminate the possibility of being killed with a bullet. In the same way, implementing parental controls can't eliminate all risk of your child seeing inappropriate content. At some point, it will happen—maybe not in your home, but maybe at school, on the bus, or at a friend's house. Does your child know what to do if he/she ever sees porn?

9. Training media literacy with “co-viewing” and “dialogue” seems simple, but we know that implementing these steps can seem daunting. What are just two things you could do this week to increase your knowledge of where your kids spend time?

Verse to Claim and Remember: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

Application: Please check out the “Tech Conversations: Stage by Stage” in Appendix B and give them a try! Be sure to share any ideas that you might have through the closed Facebook group called “Parenting the Internet Generation”. ←

Pray It Out: God our Father, at times we feel completely inadequate to have these conversations with our kids. But, we know that they’re necessary. Lord, open up doors or opportunity so that we can talk to our kids. Lord, you walk alongside us, patiently and lovingly, and we want to do the same with our children. At the same time, Lord, we beg for your Divine protection over the eyes, hearts, and minds of our children. Turn their eyes away from worthless things and may their eyes be fixed squarely on Jesus, the author and perfecter of their faith. It’s in his name we pray. Amen!

Chapter 8 - Diving in:



1. “When correcting a child, the goal is to apply light, not heat” (Woodrow Wilson). What is the difference between parenting with “light” vs. “heat”?

2. When you consider the differences between discipline and instruction, how would you describe the balance of these two activities in your parenting style? If you have multiple children, consider for a moment the balance in these activities for each of your children. Do you treat them differently? If so, for what reasons?

3. Go back and reread the definitions of each of the parenting styles on page 98. Then go to the “Support” and “Structure” grid on page 97 and plot where your parenting style would land. If you’re in a group, talk a bit about these.

4. Think back for a moment on how you were parented, and then go back to the “Support” and “Structure” grid and plot where your parents’ parenting style would land. How did this parenting style shape who you are today?

5. There are a lot of hard questions on pages 100-101. As you consider them, there might be one that really hits “home”. Which one is that? Can you pray specifically about that question right now, seeking God’s guidance on what needs to happen next?


6. Have you been able to use any of the conversation starters from the appendices during the past couple of weeks?

Verse to Claim and Remember: “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

Pray It Out: God our Father, I am so thankful for Your abundant grace. I am an imperfect parent seeking to point my children into relationship with a perfect Savior. I claim this statement: “In each phase of the day, when I interact with my children, I will either be an example to them in my obedience and love for You, or I will be an example in my repentance.” Father, there will be days when I don’t feel like living this prayer out, and so I’m coming to you for help. Thank you for strength in my weakness. In Jesus I pray, amen!



Chapter 9 - Diving In:

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1. “Their greatest need in life is not good parents, a good understanding of sex, or a good sexual track record. Their greatest need in life is Jesus.” What things other than Jesus does our culture try to elevate as the “greatest” needs for kids today?

2. Many Christians are not able to explain “the Gospel.” What about you? Have you ever practiced a simple explanation? If not, maybe do an Internet search for “The Roman Road” or “The Color Gospel.”

3. When did you first truly understand the beauty of the Gospel? What changed in your life when this happened?

4. Here's a statement to think about: "Parents are the primary disciplers of their children." Is this true in your home? In what ways have you delegated discipleship of your children to others? In what ways can you begin to live out that statement starting today?

5. *Parenting the Internet Generation* isn't a formula or prescription that applies to every family the same way. Have you tried anything over the past few weeks that has worked well? What about things that haven't worked? What conversations do you hope to have with your children soon?

Application: Many parents just don't know where to begin when it comes to sharing the Gospel with their kids. Try this simple phrase with your preschool or elementary school aged children, "God made you. God loves you. God is very pleased with you." Say it every night and make them repeat it back. There are varying opinions about how the "accept Jesus into your heart" moment is supposed to look like, but don't let that stop you from talking about Jesus and asking them "Do you love Jesus?" often. At some point, whether as a young person, teen, or adult, confessing faith in Jesus Christ is important, but it's not something to force so you can check it off the list. The Bible does tell us, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). During meal times, food times, and bedtimes, look for a chance to ask "Have you ever told

Jesus that you believe in Him? That you need Him? That you are thankful for forgiveness?” The Holy Spirit will open a door, and when it does, don’t hesitate. Some churches have specific classes for tweens and teens, maybe a “profession of faith” or “confirmation” class. These can be important turning points in the lives of young people as they discover faith with their peers. In the midst of a busy family calendar, make time for this. Be sure to share any other ideas that you might have through the closed Facebook group called "Parenting the Internet Generation."

Verse to Claim and Remember: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:15 (ESV)

Pray It Out: God our Father, in a sin-soaked world, it’s easy to feel like we just don’t stand a chance in raising our kids in a Gospel-centered way. Would you pour out your unending, always and forever love and grace on our family right now? We cannot take our kids to a place that we aren’t already familiar with. In this way, God would you increase our faith? Would you increase our resolve to live obediently? Would you increase our desire to disciple our kids? Lord, may we recognize the open windows when our kids are most receptive to hearing this Good News. And, may we have the courage to share. In Jesus name, Amen!
