

## ENGAGE YOUR FAITH BY...

*James 1:5*

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

As a parent, there will be times where you will not have the right answer to the situation, your child throws you a curveball question, or you're highly uncomfortable to talk with your child about a particular subject. We serve a God who gives wisdom to all who seek Him and wants to give it generously to all. Ask God to give you wisdom to uniquely parent each of your children well. Extend to your son the same grace and mercy your Father in Heaven extends to you, while firmly adhering to your families values.

## RESOURCES...

### > Web

[www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)

[www.josh.org/resources/just-1-click-away](http://www.josh.org/resources/just-1-click-away)

[www.fightthenewdrug.org](http://www.fightthenewdrug.org)

### > Books

*Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain*

*Focus on the Family Guide to talking with your kids about Sex*



MOUNTAINPARK  
CHURCH

# PARENTING MATTERS

# PURITY

— 6-8TH GRADE-BOYS —

## LIFE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE...

Everything is coming unglued. This is the season where it seems like your son is breaking every rule, testing every boundary, and the idea of purity seems distant. Boys in 6th to 8th grade are doing everything they can to fit in. This comes from a deeper desire to discover who they are. If it is not externally visible through their behaviors, they are internalizing this process and the external behaviors are to come.

## YOU PARENT THEM WELL WHEN YOU...

### KNOW:

Your son may sacrifice purity for a deeper felt need: identity. It is not that they don't value the idea of living a pure life for Christ, it is simply that they have found a bigger calling for this season. They will do things or change things about themselves so that they can test friendships. They are testing these friendships to discover who they are and where they fit in the world. Know that their change in behavior is not an attack on you, but rather a process of self organization. You play a major role in this season.

### EXPECT:

Often times we view purity as physical, as in what you do or do not do physically. Yet, students deal with purity electronically just as much, if not more, than they do physically. Their desire to fit in impacts what they listen to, what they watch, what they follow, and what they say online. Expect that your son has equal or more behavioral struggles online, as they do in person.

### PREPARE:

Prepare for some hard conversations. The primary purity struggles at this time are centered around what their entertainment choice are, how they talk about one another (especially girls), and how they deal with pornography/masturbation. These will be difficult conversations, and they will experience a huge amount of peer/social pressure to do what is not pure. Be prepared to converse with grace, hope, and love as you lead your son through these difficult years.

### TALK:

Make purity conversations a regular part of your day. You can't not ignore it and hope they know your expectations. Talking about making pure choices should be as comfortable as sitting on your couch after a long day. When you create regular conversations about what entertainment is appropriate, how they treat others, and pornography/masturbation, then it feels less like a lecture and more like a discussion. Discussions mean open and ongoing dialogue and that is going to make the difference.

## NEXT STEPS ARE...

### Preemptive Conversations

Right now your son is making decisions so that they can fit in. That is not to say it is easy to navigate, or that they aren't responsible for their actions. Just know that there are many things influencing their decisions, which is why you have an opportunity for regular and ongoing conversations about various purity topics.

**Pornography/Masturbation** - It is more likely your student has seen a pornographic image than not. On top of that, the majority of 6th-8th grade boys are experiencing puberty. Boys' testosterone levels are rising, which brings a lot of change. Along with experiencing body hair growth and new odors, their sexual drive will rise, bringing erections and, for some, wet dreams. This can be both surprising and difficult for them to navigate. It is important you don't rely on school and peers to educate them on puberty, sex, or their newly discovered sexual desires. School will leave more questions than answers, and their peers will also have the same questions. This can result in turning towards pornographic images for answers to their gapped sexual education and for fulfillment. These changes combined with the desire to fit in lead many boys to become addicted to not just pornographic images, but also masturbation. Here are a few important and regular conversations to have with your son:

- What changes are they personally experiencing or noticing from puberty?
- Have their friends tried to lead them towards pornographic images?
- Do they have any unanswered questions about puberty or sex?
- What is God's design and purpose for sex?

**Entertainment** - As your son finds purpose in discovering their identity, they will begin to listen to, follow, participate in and watch various types of entertainment. This can range from music and movies to social media or sports. Everything is on the table. To both support their desire for identity, and create purity boundaries it's helpful to form a filter by which to judge the various entertainment outlets they interact with. Below are a few regular conversations you can have with your son:

- What music/movies/sports/social media stars do you listen to or watch?
- How are the things you watch, listen to, and follow helping you?
- How do they help you in your faith?
- How are the things you watch, listen to, and follow hurting you?  
How do they hurt your faith?

### Reactionary:

Your son may do something in these years that may shock you. It's important to remember they are not doing these things to purposefully hurt you, but rather to fit in and find friends. Be available to support your student and guide them through their wise and unwise decisions. When something leads them away from purity, direct them back into healthy conversations using the conversation guides above. Focus your discipline on the behavior rather than on your son and make it clear that while the action isn't appropriate, it doesn't make them a bad person.