

# CROSS WIND PRODUCTIONS

## Discussion Guide

### The Saber

The movie, The Saber, portrays the secret addiction to pornography, particularly Internet pornography. Research shows that this is an ever growing and insidious addiction. It is no longer an addiction affecting adult men. It now impacts our young men and young women. The Saber shows realistically how easily young people are lured into pornography and how quickly their world around them crumbles.

As shown in our previous film, Holly's Story, there is healing and restoration through Jesus Christ.

*It is important that the movie, The Saber, be viewed in its entirety before entering in any discussion or asking the viewers any preliminary questions. Think of the movies you have watched and the importance of that fresh opportunity to form your own response without any preconceived expectations. The discussions following the movie will then be more original, candid and honest.*

#### NOTE TO FACILITATOR:

At the end of this curriculum, you will find some statistical information on pornography. This information is included in case your discussions lead to further questions on the subject of pornography and how prevalent the addiction truly is.

**All of the statistical information is designed for the facilitator's benefit. This information allows the facilitator to be better prepared for discussion after the movie has been viewed. The intent of this information is to enlighten the facilitator about the addiction and the issues of pornography.**

THE SABER DEALS WITH THE MATURE, SENSITIVE TOPIC OF PORNOGRAPHY. IT MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF THIRTEEN.

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOME GROUPS, PARENTAL PERMISSION MAY BE REQUIRED.

## SHORT ONE-PAGE DISCUSSION for THE SABER

1. Why was Cameron, the lead character in the movie, so easily lured into addiction to pornography?  
Discuss – how subtle the seduction began (and/or progressed) into the pornographic world.
2. Relate the parable of a house built on the rock and not on the sand to the choices Cameron made once he entered the military academy? (*Luke 6:47-49*)
3. Discuss – consequences and restoration – Even though Cameron asked for forgiveness for his sins, he still had to deal with the consequences before restoration could begin.
4. What gave Jacob, Cameron’s roommate, the strength to reject pornography?
5. Why did Allison choose to travel to New York to see Cameron?
6. What does the character of Franklin represent in the movie?
7. Why didn’t Franklin just take money for the hard drive rather than insisting on getting the Silver Star?
8. Relate Cameron giving up his Silver Star to the story of Esau and Jacob in *Genesis, Chapter 25*.
9. The bracelet Cameron gave Allison is engraved with the scripture, *Song of Solomon 2:10-13*. What is the significance of this verse?
10. What does the Woman of the Dark represent?
11. Compare/Contrast the Woman of the Dark in *Proverbs, Chapter 7* with the woman Jesus speaks to in *John, Chapter 8*.

*Edward T. Welch writes in his book, Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave,<sup>1</sup> that addiction is a lordship problem and can be described as idolatry. Something or someone other than the living God controls us, and the controlling object tells us how to live, think and feel.*

12. What does idolatry mean to you? What might be more important to you than God?

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<sup>1</sup> Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave. Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel, Edward T. Welch, P&R Publishing, Phillipsbury, NJ, 2001.

## IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION for THE SABER

### TOPIC I: PEOPLE

#### Cameron O'Connor

2. How did Cameron's parents' and grandfather's strong military background influence Cameron's choices?
  - a. Discuss – the pressure of living up to ideals set by parents and grandfather.
  - b. Discuss – the loss of both parents at a young age and the void that it left in Cameron's life.
3. Why was Cameron so easily swayed into becoming addicted to pornography?
  - a. Discuss – how subtle the seduction began (and/or progressed) into the pornographic world
    - i. Playing cards
    - ii. Magazines
    - iii. Web Sites
    - iv. Adult XXX Stores
    - v. Strip Clubs
  - b. *Look up Proverbs 5: 3-6 – Discuss the problems of following an immoral woman*
4. How strong was Cameron's relationship with Jesus Christ before he entered the military academy?
  - a. Is it enough to simply say you are a Christian?
  - b. *Can you relate the parable of a house built on the rock and not on the sand to the choices Cameron made once he entered the military academy? (Luke 6:47-49)*
5. In the end Cameron lost everything – his girlfriend, his place at the military academy, his friends, the Silver Star, the respect of his grandfather – was this ending realistic?
  - a. Discuss – consequences and restoration – even though Cameron asked for forgiveness for his sins, he still had to deal with the consequences before restoration could begin.
  - b. Christians say, "It is all about the walk with Christ." What does that mean to you?
  - c. *Discuss – 1 John 1:9 – Admit guilt, confess sins and ask for forgiveness.*
  - d. "What Satan meant for bad, God used for good." How does this phrase apply to Cameron's life? Can you apply it to your life?

## Jacob Jordan

1. What gave Jacob the strength to reject pornography?
  - a. Discuss – losing a brother to a life of pornography
  - b. What kept Jacob from falling into the same trap of pornography that his brother did? Have you ever learned from someone else's mistakes?
2. Jacob reported Cameron to his commander.
  - a. Would you have had the strength to turn in a friend for doing something wrong?
    - i. Does it depend on the circumstances of the wrong doing?
    - ii. Does there need to be an immediate danger before you would turn in that friend?
    - iii. Is viewing pornography an immediate danger to others? Why/why not?
    - iv. Discuss any effect of viewing pornography on future relationships.
  - b. Did Jacob wait too long to turn in Cameron? If he had turned him in sooner would things have turned out differently for Cameron?
3. What was Jacob's relationship with Jesus Christ?
  - a. Why didn't Jacob share the gospel with Cameron?
  - b. How do you share the gospel with someone who doesn't want to hear it?

## Allison Tinsley

1. Why did Allison choose to travel to New York to see Cameron?

Why did she succumb to Cameron's coaxing when he said, "I guess I'll see you at Christmas"?
2. Why wasn't Allison excited by Cameron's engagement proposal?

Did Allison want to be engaged to Cameron before he left for the military academy?
3. What are some bad choices that Allison made?
  - a. Discuss – traveling to NY alone
  - b. Discuss – going into the strip club
  - c. Discuss – leaving the strip club alone

## Franklin Adams

1. What does the character of Franklin represent in the film?  
Discuss – Franklin’s trickery, deceit, lack of respect
2. Why doesn’t Franklin get caught?
3. Do you know people who seem to get away with everything and never get caught?
  - a. How does that make you feel?
  - b. Does it make you want to do bad also?
4. Did Franklin really want the Silver Star? Why didn’t he just take money for the hard drive?

## Pops

1. Why didn’t Pops join the “send-off celebration” for Cameron?
2. Do you ever wonder why your parents aren’t excited about your growing up?
  - a. Do you think their concerns about your future are realistic?
  - b. How did losing his children in the war affect how Pops raised Cameron and his brother?
3. In the chapel, Pops was stern with Cameron, but still showed Cameron the way to redemption. Is that how our Holy Father is with us?

## TOPIC II: SYMBOLISM

There are several symbols in The Saber – Discuss each symbol in depth.

## The Silver Star

1. What is the significance of the Silver Star?
2. Why wasn’t Pops sure to which grandson he should give the star?  
Did he make the right decision giving it to Cameron?
3. Cameron gave up his star for pornography. *Can you relate this to the story of Esau and Jacob in Genesis, chapter 25?*

## Bracelet

1. The bracelet is engraved with the scripture, *Song of Solomon 2:10-13*. What is the significance of this verse?

2. Did Cameron understand the significance of the verse that was on the bracelet? Do you think he understood it by the end of the film?
3. Why didn't Cameron put the bracelet back on Allison's wrist at the hospital?

### **Woman of the Dark**

1. What does she represent?
2. She was also the dancer at the club. Why do you think she also played this role?
3. Why was she the character who found the bracelet after Allison's rape?
4. In the chapel, when she appeared she "called out to him." What temptation calls out to you?
5. *Compare/contrast the Woman of the Dark in Proverbs 7 with the woman Jesus speaks to in John, Chapter 8.*

## TOPIC III: PORNOGRAPHY

The character of Cameron O'Connor becomes addicted to pornography at the military academy. Pornography is no longer an addiction for older men. Pornography seeps into our culture everywhere. It is taken lightly and casually – often in a humorous way. Because of this cavalier attitude, the addiction to pornography is also taken lightly. Some dismiss it by saying, "Just quit looking at it!" or "I can take it or leave it." People need to be educated to the fact that this is truly an addiction that has and is destroying families around the world.

### **Questions:**

1. How is looking at pornography equal to other addictions like drugs, alcohol, food etc.?
2. Do you think people take this addiction seriously? Do you take it seriously? Why/why not?
3. How does pornography objectify human beings?
4. Do you know anyone who has lost everything to an addiction?

Edward T. Welch writes in his book, Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave,<sup>2</sup> that addiction is a lordship problem and can be described as idolatry. Something or someone other than the living God controls us, and the controlling object tells us how to live, think and feel.

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<sup>2</sup> Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave. Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel, Edward T. Welch, P&R Publishing, Phillipsbury, NJ, 2001.

5. What does idolatry mean to you? Are idols merely graven images mentioned in the bible? Or are they more intangible?
6. Do you have any false idols in your life? What might be more important to you than God?
  - a. Money
  - b. Career
  - c. Popularity
  - d. Body image
  - e. Relationships
  - f. Food
  - g. Drugs
  - h. Clothing
  - i. Cars

Edward Welch further describes the descent of idolatry as SIN to SLAVERY to TRAGEDY. Relate this to Cameron's (and Allison's and Franklin's) experience. To your life?

## RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR FACILITATORS:

### **The Saber Statistics**

The average age at which children are exposed to online obscenity is 11. And 80% of 15-17 year-olds with Internet access admit to multiple exposures to hardcore porn.<sup>3</sup>

Americans spend an estimated \$8-10 billion annually on pornography, exceeding the combined gross of ABC, CBS, and NBC of \$6.2 billion.<sup>4</sup>

Pornography addicts have a more difficult time recovering from their addiction than cocaine addicts, since...pornographic images stay in the brain forever.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> World Magazine, July 17, 2004

<sup>4</sup> [xxxchurch.com](http://xxxchurch.com) Website Ministry

<sup>5</sup> Mary Anne Layden, Sexual Trauma Program, University of Pennsylvania

Nine in 10 kids 8-16 years have viewed porn online, mostly accidentally while doing homework. <sup>6</sup>

Nearly 900 theaters show X-rated films, and more than 15,000 adult bookstores and video stores offer pornographic material, outnumbering McDonald's restaurants in the U.S. by a margin of at least 3 to 1. <sup>7</sup>

The primary pornography consumer group is boys between ages 12-17. <sup>8</sup>

Laboratory studies have shown that viewing violent pornographic films can increase aggression against women. <sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> UK News Telegraph, NOP Research Group, January 7, 2002

<sup>7</sup> [xxxchurch.com](http://xxxchurch.com) Website Ministry

<sup>8</sup> [xxxchurch.com](http://xxxchurch.com) Website Ministry

<sup>9</sup> [xxxchurch.com](http://xxxchurch.com) Website Ministry