

## Lesson 7 – Treatment 3 Scenarios

This lesson will be a little different from the ones you've had in the past. There are no Bible verses to read and reflect on. In this lesson you will use some of the tools you learned in the lessons on Thinking Errors and Ownership to reflect on the scenarios presented below. There is nothing in this lesson that is intended to imply anything about your particular offense. The scenarios offer you the opportunity to reflect on the kind of thinking that is likely behind the behaviors described. Please answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

1. **Background:** You have little or no computer experience.

**Situation:** At your new job, you are assigned to work a machine that is operated by a computer. You are the only person who operates this machine. You are taught how to load programs into memory and then make changes to that program for each job as needed. The last line of each program never changes, no matter what the job is. So, you are instructed to leave that line as is. As you are making changes to the program for the current job, you notice the last line of the program is missing.

**Discussion:** You tell your boss about it and he asks you what happened. What do you tell him?

2. **Background:** You have a history of alcohol and drug abuse as well as sexual promiscuity (sleeping around) and adultery (sleeping around while married). You have applied to join New Name Ministries and included in your application, your commitment to abstain from (not participate in) nicotine use and personal/intimate (and sexual) relationships during your stay at New Name Ministries.

**Situation:** Shortly after your arrival at New Name, God leads you to a woman and you develop a relationship with her. The relationship goes sour and God leads you into a relationship with another woman. Through no fault of your own, you also break up with this woman. Thankfully, God leads you to another woman and you're sure this is true love. You're getting a lot of grief from the ministry director because he doesn't like this woman. (By the way, he's never met her.) Then you find out that the woman you have fallen in love with is sleeping with another man. During this time, you've had sex with each of these women. As each relationship ends, you share with the ministry how much you're hurting from the breakup, and each time this is the first you have disclosed that there was a relationship. Also during this time, due to a period of unemployment, you have fallen behind in your fees to the Ministry. To help cope with the stresses of your life you have taken up smoking Marlboro cigarettes, but you keep this well hidden from prying eyes. At least your newly pierced ear makes you look more attractive. You've had many constructive one-on-one sessions with ministry leadership where you've cried, "repented", and recommitted to change.

**Discussion:** Describe who you are. Describe who God is in this situation.

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3. **Background:** You have a sexual offense involving a child you knew from the neighborhood who you befriended by using gifts, ice cream, and special attention. Your parole stipulations state that you are not to be in or near places where children tend to hang around.

**Situation:** This is the first time you've been shopping since getting out of prison and are at Wal-Mart. The ministry has put you on the buddy system, meaning you have a chaperone. Your chaperone has gone off shopping for his own stuff and tells you to meet him near the main exit in 30 minutes. You are musically inclined and would like to have a keyboard to help you in your songwriting. You ask one of the store employees where to find what you're looking for and you are directed to aisle 6 in the middle of the toy section. You find what you're looking for, purchase the keyboard, and then wait for 5 minutes at the main exit as instructed until your chaperone arrives.

**Discussion:** Your parole officer asks you how your first experience at shopping went and you describe what happened. Your parole officer does not seem pleased. Is there anything wrong? Are you being tested? Is someone pushing your buttons? How do you react?

4. **Background:** You have a good job. You enjoy your work as well as your quiet time alone during breaks. You are at work and your boss catches you visiting with a co-worker instead of working.

**Situation:** Later, you go to your boss to apologize saying, "I'm sorry for that earlier. I know it was wrong. You see, I just talked to my parole officer and so I needed to vent. At the ministry they're always telling me that I hold things in too much." Instead of saying something like, "forget about it, it's in the past" or "just don't do it again", your boss tells you that you're "full of crap".

**Discussion:** Is there a good reason for your boss's reaction? Is he having a bad day? Is he a jerk? Did you commit the unforgivable sin?

5. **Background:** Your offense involves downloading child porn onto your computer, mostly of teenage girls. You've served your time in prison and are now on parole. You've been instructed by your parole officer that you are not allowed access to the internet outside of your job search and you are not allowed to view or possess pornography of any kind.

**Situation:** You got a brand new fancy phone that has "apps" on it. With those "apps" you can download your favorite music and even subscribe to magazines like Maxim, Barely Legal, and Hot Asian Chicks while simply paying for it with your debit card. You like some of the pictures in the magazine so much that you copy them onto the stand alone (no internet access) computer in the ministry home you share with other (Christian) parolees who share the same background and restrictions you do. Your brothers notice the pictures on the computer and tell you to remove them. Since you're a man who can make his own decisions and the pictures are not "porn", shortly after removing the pictures from the computer, you reinstall them. This happens again on two other occasions with two different brothers. When the ministry director discovers these pictures and evidence that you are the owner, this information is forwarded to your parole officer. You tell your officer that you do not have internet access and that your phone has "apps". You also make clear that the pictures are not "porn". You end up returning to prison on a violation.

**Discussion:** Why was your parole officer out to get you? Would it have been better if everyone just minded their own business or should your brothers in the home done more than just tell you to get rid of the pictures? What does your interest in Hot Asian Chicks have to do with your former interest in teenage girls? What is the difference between being stupid and willingly uninformed? Explain all of the good reasons for a Christian man to find interest in the magazines described above.