



Guidelines for group members in a wives support group. Generally I will send out an email along the lines of:

This week, we will take time for each of you to share, if you choose, a brief overview of what you are facing in your marriage. This is NOT mandatory, but it is an invitation for each of you to be known. You'll only have 5 minutes or so, so it will need to be brief, but this is so each of you can also be prayed for specifically. So, to make this as beneficial and "safe" as possible for all of you, here is some guidance for you as you think of sharing:

DO feel free to share:

- what your husband is struggling with, how your marriage has been impacted by sexual sin. Feel free to name it: adultery, pornography, paying for sexual experiences.
- how you are doing in processing it, in facing it. We're not looking for 'cleaned up, pretty' emotions here: feel free to be real and honest.

Please REFRAIN from sharing:

- names of any other people who may have been involved in your husband' sin.
- any specific types of behaviors that will leave images in our minds.

So, for example: years ago in our Wives Group, we had a woman whose husband struggled with homosexual pornography, as well as sexual behavior. She shared this with our group, but added no other details. In private, she and I spoke in more depth of what his sin patterns had been and what kinds of behaviors he had been involved with. *But she did not share that with the group for the sake of 'protecting' their minds.* Most women in the group have husbands who have struggled with pornography. In the group setting however, we are not going to share/describe specific images or web sites. The reason for this, as I shared above, is that each of you is fighting hard already to capture your thoughts to Christ. While we DO want our group time to be a place in which you are known, cared for and encouraged, we also want it to be beneficial for each member to be spurred on to Jesus, even as you entrust your stories to one another.