



## INTERESTED in the Elephant Room Support Group?

Thanks for your interest! First of all I want to encourage you in your bold step in wanting to deal with the issue of pornography in your life. You are definitely not alone. In fact, most Christian guys struggle with porn and many feel like they are addicted to it.

Like a lot of guys, you may feel pretty discouraged by your own journey in this area. Well, I want to tell you that there is hope. The road is not short and it's not always easy, but with God's Spirit at work and the support of some brothers in Christ, you can grow to experience a life shaped by freedom from porn and satisfaction in Christ. The ER Support Group doesn't make any false promises of instant healing, but here's what some guys have said about how they have found it helpful:

*"While attending the ER support group I really found the support phenomenal. I discovered I was not alone in the issues I had been struggling with surrounding pornography."*

*"ER has been a chance to commit to Jesus a part of my life I've kept hidden."*

*"At ER I found a group of brothers who genuinely cared about me and my wellbeing, committed to supporting me in my journey away from porn."*

*"ER helped me get perspective on the issue of pornography, to learn strategies to overcome it, and most importantly, to refocus on my relationship with Christ as my source of fulfilment."*



### Endorsement by Rev Neil Chambers

Pastor of Bundoora Presbyterian Church and  
Founding Council Member of The Gospel Coalition Australia

*"It has been my pleasure to watch the establishment and growth of the Elephant Room under Simon Camilleri's leadership. It is the fruit of Simon's own commitment to live a godly Christian life and the hard work and thinking he has put in to combat the debilitating effects of an addiction to pornography."*

*The group's goal, not just to help each other be free from sexual sin, but to help each other live lives that glorify Jesus, is one we endorse, and I have found its focus on promoting the healthiness of the whole of the Christian life of its members is the key to its attractiveness and usefulness.*

*It has been encouraging to see the fruit of this in the lives of several men in our congregation. It has also been encouraging to continue to meet regularly with Simon to discuss both the direction of the group and his own continuing pursuit of godliness. He keeps himself accountable to the Session of Bundoora Presbyterian Church and is a valuable contributor to its ministry."*



# Simon's Journey - Out of something & Into something

The ER Support Group is led by Simon Camilleri, who started the ministry in 2010 after his own long journey out of compulsive porn use. What he discovered along the way was that this is not simply a journey OUT of something. It is also a journey INTO something. Namely, a deeper, richer and more satisfying relationship with Jesus.

This became the heart of "Elephant Room" – to not only help Christians become free from the harmful and addictive power of pornography, but also to help them fix their eyes on the gospel of Christ as their hope, joy and satisfaction.

**"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."**

Hebrews 12:1-2

As this passage says, the Christian life is not just about getting disentangled from sin. That is important, but the reason we get free FROM porn is so that we can be free FOR something greater – a life where we can be unhindered to run the race with perseverance, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

## So what actually happens at the ER Support Group?

**The ER Support Group will run weekly for 4 months (April - July).  
At each meeting, we aim to do four things:**

- 1. Encourage each other in the shared journey towards freedom from porn and satisfaction in Christ.*
- 2. Learn about, reflect on and discuss issues relating to pornography and the gospel.  
We will be studying the bible as well as working through resources produced by Simon.*
- 3. Share how our week has gone, be reminded of the truths of the gospel of grace and discuss practical strategies for the upcoming week.*
- 4. Prayerfully look to God to change our hearts and help us grow in freedom, integrity and godliness.*

## Basic Details

**WHEN:** Weekly (day to be confirmed) from 7:30-10:00pm

**STARTING:** The week of April 4th 2016

**FINISHING:** The last week of July 2016

**LOCATION:** Simon's home in Mill Park, Victoria

**COST:** \$40 (this covers resources, printing and food)

**BRING:** Bible, pen, note pad (all of these can be supplied if you don't have them)



# Group Expectations

**These expectations shape the culture of the ER Support Group. If you are interested in joining the group, it is important that you understand them fully and commit to them wholeheartedly.**

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The privacy of everyone in the group is of the utmost importance. Mutual trust needs to be protected and everyone needs to be confident that no personal details will be discussed with anyone outside of the group. *(Note: Understandably, as Simon has responsibility for the group, this expectation may not apply in matters that involve illegal activity or for reasons of extreme pastoral necessity. If you have any questions about this, please ask Simon.)*

## **ATTENDANCE**

This is a four month commitment to attending every week, and so if you decide you wish to join the group you should clear your schedule for those nights. The regular weekly attendance of all members creates a sense of stability, security and mutual trust. It also helps Simon with his preparation of the material and it is a good self-discipline for you

It is understood that your attendance may be effected by work, family or health issues. If you can not make it one week, (or if you're going to be late) you should text Simon on 0425 851 540 to inform him. If you CAN make it, you should never let laziness, shame due to recent sin, pride due to general success or anything else prevent you from coming.

## **CARE & RESPECT**

You are not just in the group for yourself. We look out for, pray for and care for everyone in the group. During discussions, you are free to share your thoughts, feelings and wisdom, but be careful not to hijack the conversation or speak or act in a way that is disrespectful or unkind. Simon has the responsibility of facilitating group discussion.

## **HONESTY & DISCRETION**

We work hard to make the group a safe place where there is grace, trust and no condemnation. You should feel free to be honest about your successes, failures and struggles. Having said that, when confessing, do not give details that would be unhelpful for the other members of the group. If there is something you wish to share, but are unsure, please chat to Simon privately.

## **CHURCH**

The group is not a substitute for church or other Christian fellowship. You are expected to attend a local church for your own growth and to give you an opportunity to love and serve others. Ask Simon if you need help with finding a gospel-focused church near you.

## **YOUR OWN COMMITMENT**

The group exists to support you in the commitments that you are ultimately responsible for making. It is only healthy for you to come to the group because you personally want to deal with this issue in your life. We can not make you and we will not twist your arm. We will be there for you as much as we can, but in the end it is your call whether you come, whether you apply God's truth to your life and whether you seek to make the necessary changes in your life.



## Other helpful information

### FACEBOOK

“Elephant Room” has a Facebook Page which I encourage you to “like” and share with others. You can find it at: [www.facebook.com/elephantroom.info](http://www.facebook.com/elephantroom.info)



We also have two private Facebook Groups which the guys have found very useful in the past. One is called “ER Guys” and is for anyone who has or is presently attending the ER Support Group. The other is called “ER SG”.

This group is exclusively for those who are presently attending the ER Support Group.

This is a safe place for you to connect online and share thoughts, prayer requests or questions.

After attending the ER Support group, you can request to join this Facebook group.

### BOOKS & OTHER RESOURCES

Simon has a large library of helpful Christian resources on the topic of porn, sexuality and the gospel. You are free to look through and borrow any that you like.

### WISER

“WISER” stands for “Wives In Support of Elephant Room”.

It is a complimentary ministry to ER, offering informal support for the wives of men attending the ER Support Group.

Ask Simon for more details or email: [wiser@elephantroom.info](mailto:wiser@elephantroom.info)



### LASTLY, JUST SO YOU KNOW...

Simon’s wife Cat will probably be around the house during the ER Support Group, looking after their baby daughter. Cat will not disturb the group, but you may see her before and after the group meeting. Don’t feel embarrassed by this at all. She is aware of everyone in the group and is very supportive of this ministry. She is also committed to protecting your anonymity and privacy.

## So, what now?

If you have read through this document thoroughly and you think that you’d like to attend the ER Support Group, you need to send me an “Expression of Interest” email containing 3 things:

1. *Acknowledge that you have read this document and commit to upholding the “Group Expectations”.*
2. *Explain your reasoning for wanting to join the group.*
3. *Allocate which weeknight/s you would be available to attend the group.*  
*In the past, the group has met on a Monday night, but if that is impossible, please allocate another night/s of the week that you would be available. We can’t guarantee anything, but if enough people state that they can’t do Monday night, Simon will take that into account.*

By the end of March, please send your “Expression of Interest” email to: [simon@elephantroom.info](mailto:simon@elephantroom.info)  
Simon will respond promptly and may request a personal meeting or more information in order to assess whether the group will be suitable for you.

If you have questions about anything, please email or call Simon Camilleri on: **0425 851 540**.