THE COMPUTER
by Scott W. Kirk

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: To open a discussion among parents and kids about guarding our hearts and minds.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Communication, Family, Youth

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Philippians 4:6-8

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Thanksgiving, Advent, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

Jason-A teenager, active in his youth group but immature in his faith

Dad-Jason's father, a deacon (or elder) in the church

Tommy-Jason's 8-year-old brother

PROPS: 1) One table
2) Computer monitor (or laptop) facing upstage
3) Chair
4) Schoolbooks

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character; Tommy is in pajamas

SOUND: Three wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Jason's home

Drama Ministry
POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

THE COMPUTER *by Scott W. Kirk*

Director's Tip:

The first mistake you could make in directing this script is making it about the evils of pornography. It's about communication between parents and children. Keep that your focus and the focus of your actors and you will find that it informs the end result. Dad hasn't been totally honest with Jason; Jason has obviously not been honest with his parents. It's important that we realize Dad doesn't suspect something when he first walks in the room. Keep that part of the sketch light. Later, when Dad realizes what Jason has been doing, his reaction is the same as if someone had just gut-punched him. He spends the rest of the sketch trying to recover from that punch. Don't make Dad and Jason best friends by the end of the sketch, either. Healing from dishonesty between parents and children doesn't come that quickly. Leave the healing for the message that follows the sketch.

JASON is intently watching the computer monitor, occasionally moving the mouse. A moment passes before the dialogue begins.

DAD: (*Offstage*) Jason? Jason?

JASON hurriedly turns off computer monitor, stands up and starts to put schoolbooks in his backpack.

DAD: (*ENTERING*) Jason? It's after 12:00. You should be in bed by now.

JASON: (*Nervous*) I … I was just touching up my term paper.

DAD: How'd it go?

JASON: Fine. Just a five-pager. Why are you still up?

DAD: Tommy wanted a drink of water. You want me to proof that paper for you?

JASON: No thanks. I went over it twice.

DAD: Last time, you relied on spell check and you got burned, remember?

JASON: I already printed it out.

DAD: You look beat. Why don't you go to bed and I'll shut everything down.

JASON: That's okay, Dad. I'll do it.

DAD: I don't mind. I want to check e-mail, anyway. (*He starts to move toward the computer.*)

JASON: I already checked. It's empty.