I. Slide#1 Announce:

A. Slide#2 Sat 11/1 there’s a Free Event, an Orphan Awareness Conf, at the Hot Spngs Conf Cnter. Even if your not looking to adopt/foster you can support someone that does or is ready to.

B. Slide#3-10 WRAP - Purpose: To increase awareness of its quick, destructive harm it causes.
   1. Access - It’s never been easier to access explicit material. It’s at our fingertips 24/7.
   2. Speed - Sexual addiction can occur within a week and easily within 3 months for many people.
   3. Imprint - Inappropriate images can't be erased from the mind and they influence actions. We must be responsible for what goes on/into in our minds.
   4. Entry - into pornography addiction can start w/a glance of a swimsuit or lingerie image.

C. Studies show strong evidence that sex affects the rewards systems in the brain in the same way that drugs or food can as well.
   1. Addiction to pornography can impair the development of emotional intimacy.
   2. Many who have struggled with multiple addictions, report that it was the hardest addiction for them to overcome.
   3. Pornography addiction can start at any age.

D. When you touch a hot stove, your brain says, “Ouch, that burns. No more of that!” But unlike the hot stove, porn is exciting.
   1. In a simple scenario, the brains says, “I saw porn. I pleased myself. It felt good. In the future, let’s do it again. Really, I need this again. I’m not sure I’m getting what I need. How about a little more?” Mix in the anxiety and excitement of using the forbidden, the fear of being caught, and even secrecy, and the brain learns even faster during these intense emotional bursts. With each repetition the brain receives powerful cocktails of signals and hormones that ensure future cravings.

E. Addiction? “The classic question posed is, Can you stop looking at porn for 30 days? If you are truly addicted, your brain will go on a 5-alarm fire in about 7-14 days.” Dr. Mark Laaser, author and sex addiction therapist.

F. And what hurts my heart the most, is all the people it destroys. Starting with marriages, but also with whoever’s daughter is being used to make up those images.
   1. Porn users do not and cannot distinguish between trafficked women, prostitutes, and porn stars. The availability of “live” porn has risen as trafficked children and women are forced to perform “on-demand” sex acts in front of web cameras as porn users watch.
   2. Porn is slavery. It’s abuse. It’s rape for money.

G. We’ve placed the best informative document I could find on the home page. cm.com [47 pages pdf]
1. The Porn Circuit, understand your brain and break porn habits in 90 days.

II. Slide#11 Intro:
A. In the movie *Mary Poppins*, the two children, Jane and Michael Banks, jumped into bed after their incredible first day with the amazing Mary Poppins. Jane asked, “Mary Poppins, you won’t ever leave us, will you?” Michael, full of excitement, looked at his new nanny and added, “Will you stay if we promise to be good?” Mary looked at the two and as she tucked them in replied, “Look, that’s a *pie-crust promise. Easily made, easily broken.*”

1. **God’s promises** are not *pie crust promises*. He will never break a single promise He has made.

B. Slide#12 Title: Soul Anchor
C. Outline: No Pie Crust Promises; Find a New Hope; Anchored for Progress; Carrying the Anchor Forward

III. Slide#13 NO PIE CRUST PROMISES (13-15)
A. God’s promise & God’s oath assure us that we are His, and God’s character backs up His words.

B. Abraham The Role Model

C. Who should we *imitate*? (12)…well here’s one example…*Abraham.*

1. But before we talk about him, understand there are many others who could be our example also. Matter of fact we’ll meet many of them in ch.11.
   a) Slide#14 For now be reminded, “You are not the 1st down any of life’s roads.”
   b) Others braved the dangers & endured the tribulations before you & they won. [i.e. Martyrs]

2. So go forward saint…the trail has been blazed.

D. (13,14) Context is Gen.22:16,17 when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac.

1. This (vs.14) was 1st promised to Abram back in Gen.12:2,3 (in Haran). Then again in 12:6,7 (in Shechem). And then renewed in 22:16,17 right after God stopped Abraham from almost sacrificing his son Isaac.

E. Swore by Himself – indicates that He binds Himself to His Word by His eternal person. *(and it doesn’t get better than that)*

1. Courts make us swear an oath to tell the truth. For one reason…because we are untrustworthy & promise breakers.

F. (15) Patiently endured – When the 1st promise came Abraham was 75. When it came true he was 100…Q: How long was he patient?

1. How many times has he made you wait 25 years?
2. We are normally impatient to wait 25 days…or, 25 minutes…or, 25 seconds.
3. Or, this could have been Abraham waiting for Jacob to be born (the father of the 12 tribes) [Isaac/Rebekah *had* Esau/Jacob when Abraham was still alive]
G. Abraham’s faith flourished because it fastened upon 2 facets of God’s dealings w/him: God’s promise & God’s oath.
   1. The ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, came in Jesus.
   2. Jesus said to the Pharisees, Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, & he saw it & was glad.

H. Slide#15 Trials turn into triumphs if we patiently endure them.
   1. There was once a mission station in Japan, which took the stones that were thrown at the Christians who had witnessed there in years gone by, later in more peaceful times, picked up these rocks and bricks and used them in the foundation of a new church.
      a) So with our trials, if we’re patient, they bring blessing and lay the foundation for future reward. Here the example of Abraham is regarded as such faithful endurance.

IV. Slide#16 FIND A NEW HOPE (16-19)
A. Slide#17 The English poet Alexander Pope wrote (An Essay on Man), “Hope springs eternal in the human breast: Man never is, but always to be blest.” But where does man turn when hope dries up?
   1. The director of a medical clinic told of a terminally ill young man who came in for his usual treatment. A new doctor who was on duty said to him casually and cruelly, “You know, don’t you, that you won’t live out the year?” As the young man left, he stopped by the director’s desk and wept. “That man took away my hope,” he blurted out. Slide#18 “I guess he did,” replied the director. “Maybe it’s time to find a new one.”
   2. Commenting on this incident, Lewis Smedes wrote, “Is there a hope when hope is taken away? Is there hope when the situation is hopeless?”
   3. That question leads us to Christian hope, for in the Bible, hope is no longer a passion for the possible. It becomes a passion for the promise.”

B. Slide#19 Most of us have been put under oath. Maybe in a courtroom, or before a notary public.
   1. Any attempt at lying after the oath has been taken, will result in punishment.
C. (16) God, eager to convey to men & women of faith the total trustworthiness of His Word, condescended to the human practice of adding a solemn oath to the promise he had given.
   1. God never had to do this. His promises are Yes & Amen.
   2. Impossible to lie – because His whole nature is truthful.
D. (17) Determining – to purpose, or to will.

1 Our Daily Bread, December 19, 1996
1. **What a great statement of security.** – God’s promise & God’s oath assure us that we are His, & God’s Character backs up His Words.

2. **Immutable** – unchangeable. This word belongs to the legal terminology of the time, & signifies a ruling or contract which is incapable of being set aside or annulled.
   a) Here it indicates the irreversibility of God’s purpose, as expressed in the promise, & confirmed by the oath.

E. (18) **Lay hold** of the hope set before us—hold fast, seize, to cling to.

V. **Slide#20,21 ANCHORED FOR PROGRESS (19)**

A. Jesus is our souls anchor.

B. **Anchor** - We are anchored so we can make progress. How? Doesn’t an anchor secure us?
   1. Yes, but in a positive way. It secures us from drifting (2:1).
   2. We are anchored heavenward, where Jesus ministers in the very presence of God, & that anchor WILL NOT FAIL.
   3. The Hope is an anchor. Faith is the rope.
   4. A ship is held by the anchor cast into the unseen depth beneath.

C. **Slide#22 Dr. Giles**, an expert on Chinese history, tells us that anchors date back as early as 2000 bc, & was invented by Emperor Yu.
   1. Anchors have been made from bags of sand or stone, also stone anchors, even large lead trunks.
   2. Anchors in the Gk. Hellenistic world it was the picture for hope.
   3. In the Roman world it symbolized wealth & commerce.
   4. To the early Christians it symbolized steadfastness, hope, & salvation.
      a) Slide#23a,b Many pictures of anchors have been found in the catacombs w/an inscription
         *Spes in Christo*, Hope in Christ.
   5. The Lord has a safe & secure harbor in which our soul can securely drop anchor.
   6. Jesus is an anchor that will hold “your life’s boat” steady, no matter how much tempest of trouble, or downpour of doubt may rage in your life.
   7. He can sustain & steady us when we are battered & beaten by life.
   8. And He can do it forever, since He is according to the order of Melchizedek.

D. **Slide#23c Anchors Aweigh** - is used when the anchor is raised off the bottom.
   1. Today, Jesus says, “Anchors Aweigh” to every other weight that is holding you down to this world.
   2. He seeks to be your only anchor who will hold you sure & steadfast guaranteed.
VI. Slide#24 CARRYING THE ANCHOR FORWARD (20) Forerunner/pro-dromos

A. Forerunner – This was used in a few different ways.

1. It spoke of the men/troops which were sent to explore before the advance of an army.
   a) In that sense, Jesus was our forerunner, our trail blazer, our pioneer, our guide, our scout, our leader who opened up The Way.

2. Slide#25 If he was still using the harbor imagery, maybe he recalls the role of some sailors, who would leave their large ships in a smaller craft in order to carry the anchor forward to a place where it can be firmly lodged.

B. Slide#26 Where the forerunner has entered for us - For us!

1. What Jesus did on the cross was...FOR US. Christ died for us. Rom.5:8
2. What Jesus did at His resurrection was FOR US. Because I live, you will live also Jn14:19
3. What Jesus did after the res was FOR US. Who also makes intercession for us Rom8:34
4. What Jesus did by tearing the veil was to provide access... FOR US.
5. What Jesus did as our forerunner was to enter 1st... FOR US.

C. MSG - When God made his promise to Abraham, he backed it to the hilt, putting his own reputation on the line. He said, “I promise that I’ll bless you with everything I have - bless and bless and bless!” Abraham stuck it out and got everything that had been promised to him. When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they’ll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee - God can’t break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It’s an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up his permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek.

Slide#27 We Have An Anchor

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain, will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

[Refrain]

We have an anchor that keeps the soul - steadfast and sure while the billows roll; fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love.

Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear, when the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rave, and the wild winds blow, shall the angry waves then your bark o'erflow?
Will your anchor hold in the floods of death, when the waters cold chill your latest breath?
On the rising tide you can never fail, while your anchor holds within the veil.

Will your eyes behold through the morning light - the city of gold and the harbour bright?

Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore, when life's storms are past for evermore? [Refrain]

We have an anchor that keeps the soul - steadfast and sure while the billows roll; fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love.