



# Summer Dinner Series

## Week 4 | Case Study

You have met with “Johnny” several times. During these conversations you have found the following:

Johnny is a 32 year-old man. Growing up, his father and mother were both very kind and gracious, and were faithful in teaching Johnny the Bible. He met his wife at church and they married three years ago. They do not have any children.

Johnny describes himself as “socially awkward.” Sometimes he blurts things out that are inappropriate. Other times he withdraws. He regularly replays his awkward comments or experiences in his head, including those that occurred more than 10 years ago. Other times, he thinks of when his friends made fun of his awkwardness, imitating some things he has said.

Johnny does not know what to do in response. He feels he cannot face the crowd of people again, thinking he has embarrassed himself and that no one will want to spend time with him. Quite often, he remarks that if only he had an engaging personality, then his life would be so much easier and he would not feel so ashamed. He also tells you that withdrawing seems so much easier than being with others. Instead of risking others making fun of him for further embarrassment, withdrawal seems safe. This means Johnny often spends time in the garage, fiddling around with tools or watching youtube by himself.

Johnny’s wife has grown frustrated with him. The more she gets frustrated, the more guilt and shame Johnny experiences. He and his wife feel they are caught in a cycle. That cycle has dampened intimacy with each other. Last week, his wife caught him watching pornography on several occasions. In response, he told her he was feeling lonely and just wanted to feel accepted.

Johnny is a fairly talented lawyer. His supervisor has told him on numerous occasions that he would be even more successful if he worked on several areas. However, Johnny has never wanted to address such areas. He thinks such comments mean he is unsuited for his work. That thinking has limited his growth, which has been another source of frustration for his wife.

**1. What is Johnny’s heat? (situation, circumstances)**

**2. Just based on Johnny’s heat, what actions would you suggest he take?**

**3. What are Johnny’s presenting issues (bad fruit - what does he do, say, or feel in response to his heat)?**

**4. Just based on Johnny’s heat and presenting issues, what actions would you suggest he take?**

**5. What desires, demands, and lies about God drive Johnny’s behaviors and feelings (bad roots)?**