

Table 2: *Painkiller* episodes and their associated links to course content.

Episode Summary	Discussion Question and Course Link
1. “The One to Start with, the One to Stay With” - Traces the history of the Sackler family and Richard Sackler’s involvement in the development of psychopharmacological agents (e.g., Valium). - Outlines the beginning of Purdue Pharma’s development of Oxycontin, including focus on sales and marketing techniques. - Introduces a main character, Glenn, who is hurt in a workplace accident and begins taking Oxycontin.	- What is Valium (diazepam)? Do some internet research on the history of Valium and how it was marketed in the United States. Find an old ad for Valium. What is the demographic being targeted in the ad and what is the point being made? Why do you think this marketing technique was so effective? (media influence; beliefs/ideas influence perceptions; psychological set) - What is the mechanism by which oxycodone works? Be specific. What is truthful about the way it is explained in the episode? What is inaccurate? (psychopharmacology: opioids) - What is the significance of Purdue Pharma holding focus groups to learn about the general public’s perception of morphine and oxycodone? What were they trying to accomplish by doing this? Include all relevant terms and concepts in your answer. (beliefs/ideas influence perceptions; psychological set)
2. “Jesus Gave Me Water” - Follows Glenn as he is seemingly ‘cured’ by Oxycontin. - Follows sales reps as they continue aggressively marketing Oxycontin to doctors. - Introduces another main character, Edie, a lawyer, who notices Oxycontin sales.	- What is meant by self-deception? List and describe some examples of self-deception in this episode. How does self-deception take place in your own life? (psychological/spiritual components of addiction) - What is going on with Glenn in terms of opioid pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics? Why is he needing/wanting to take his drugs more frequently? Why does the doctor increase his dose? What are the impacts of that? Use specific terms, definitions, and processes from the course in your answer. (pharmacodynamics: tolerance) - Below are some of the articles used in Purdue Pharma’s application to have Oxycontin approved in Canada. Choose, obtain, and investigate

• Outlines the drug development and approval process in the US; how Purdue Pharma gets Oxycontin approved.	an article from the list. What can you conclude? Based on your reading, start to list and describe some of Oxycontin's properties and effects that were being misrepresented in this episode. Be specific. (drug development and approval process in Canada)
3. "Blizzard of the Century" • Glenn's Oxycontin use becomes increasingly problematic; he is addicted. • FDA approves Oxycontin despite concerns. • Oxycontin use in the population becomes increasingly problematic; abuse and addiction are widespread. • Aggressive sales and marketing continue.	• How do our ideas/perceptions/beliefs influence who we consider an addict? Why was Glenn's wife so resistant to seeing him as being addicted to Oxycontin? (beliefs about addicts/addiction) • Discuss what you are seeing now with Glenn and his family in terms of addiction. Who is being affected? How? What are some ways that you are like Glenn in your own life? (impacts of addiction) • In this episode, we see the first example of users changing the ROA for Oxycontin. Why did they do this? Compare and contrast oral vs. intranasal administration of Oxycontin. (pharmacokinetics: routes of administration)
4. "Is Believed" • Glenn detoxes then relapses; impact on family worsens. • Edie continues legal process against Purdue Pharma. • Aggressive sales and marketing continue, a rep faces moral dilemma.	• How did Purdue Pharma use people's perceptions/beliefs/ideas about drug users to their advantage? (beliefs/ideas about addicts/addiction; psychological set) • List and describe all the situations in which you see self-deception in this episode. What is the impact for each involved? The people they interact with? (psychological/spiritual components of addiction) • How are things spiraling out of control for individuals in this episode? Their relationships? Their communities? List and describe specific examples. (impacts of addiction)
5. "Hot! Hot! Hot!" • Glenn hits "rock bottom" as his addiction progresses.	• We see Glenn hitting "rock-bottom" in this episode. What are some of his specific behaviors in this episode that indicate he is at an all-time

• Purdue sales rep realizes the negative impacts of Oxycontin. • Legal case against Purdue Pharma strengthens.	low? Who, specifically, is affected? How? (psychological components of addiction; impacts of addiction) • Identify some symbolic Purdue Pharma scenes in this episode. What do these scenes indicate about their attitudes/behaviors during this time? (historical/social/political influences on drugs and drug use; impacts of drugs in society/integration of Christian values) • Do you see any glimmers of hope in this episode? Give specific examples to support your answer. (psychological/spiritual components of addiction; impacts of drugs in society/integration of Christian values)
6. “What’s In a Name?” • Glenn is treated, enters recovery, relapses. • Legal setbacks have an emotional impact on Edie; she gains perspective. • Aggressive Oxycontin sales and marketing continue but Purdue Pharma will face legal consequences for their involvement in the opioid crisis.	• What is going on with Glenn in this episode? What stage of recovery is he in? How do you know? Be specific. (recovery and treatment) • Discuss the concept of relapse. What happened with Glenn? Be specific. (relapse) • What is going on with Edie in this episode? What does she learn? What does her interaction with her brother demonstrate about people in general? Edie, specifically? God? (impacts of drugs in society/integration of Christian values: forgiveness, reconciliation)

**Note.* Course concepts are in boldface.