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a resource in:

Technology

Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids



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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Technology in society today

Technology is an integral and prevalent part of today's society. It takes multiple forms, from personal computers to mobile devices to television to video gaming consoles. While it has brought great gains in communication and productivity, technology also contains numerous aspects which can cause concern. Proper understanding, self-examination, and safeguards are essential when evaluating its implications for our families and children. The Bible calls us to "*walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise*" (Ephesians 5:15).

Goals and Process of these Discussion Aids

Through these lessons, children/students and parents/teachers can hopefully engage in healthy discussion around several key teaching principles from the Bible regarding technology and some of its potential dangers. This discussion should be coupled with further instruction in the appropriate use of technology. This pairing of instruction with caution is a critical opportunity to help young people navigate the arena of technology. The format of these discussion aids is as follows:

- Each lesson is built around a technology teaching principle.
- Each lesson uses key Bible verses to emphasize how to properly navigate each teaching principle.
- Lessons have an introductory set of personal questions to be answered first.
- Lessons are structured around several questions which are meant to be discussed one on one or in a group.
- Lessons are designed to encourage parents and/or teachers to evaluate the proper boundaries for technology used by children/students.

Discussion Aids by Age Level

High School (9th-12th Grade)

1. Purity
2. Communication
3. Reality/Deception
4. Time Usage

Middle School (6th-8th Grade)

1. Purity
2. Communication
3. Reality/Deception
4. Time Usage

Grade School (3rd- 5th Grade)

1. Purity
2. Communication
3. Reality/Fantasy
4. Time Usage



Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

High School Technology Discussion Aid - Purity

“I will set no wicked thing *before mine eyes...*”

Psalm 101:3

Teaching Principle: Technology in today’s society has the potential to lead to and encourage impurity within our lives.

Questions to be answered individually:

- Do you feel you have a clear understanding of what is pure and impure in God’s eyes? Y / N
- Have you ever been exposed to impure images through the internet and/or technology? Y / N
- Have you ever found yourself purposely seeking out or sharing impure images using technology? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) Referencing *Psalm 24:3-4, Habakkuk 1:13 & Matthew 5:8*, how does God look upon purity? Impurity? What are some examples of impurities in the area of technology?
 - 2) Identify some potential dangers and consequences of continued involvement in impurity through technology (*James 1:13-16*).
 - a. Short term:
 - b. Long term:
 - c. Spiritual:
 - d. Legal:
 - 3) What should be our responsibility in dealing with technology and purity? What does *Psalm 101:3* say? How do you apply this to your personal life?
 - 4) Outline some steps or safeguards which can be taken to help avoid the temptations of impurities (*Proverbs 22:3, 2 Timothy 2:22*).
 - 5) How do you determine if you have a problem with purity and technology? What further steps should be taken if you find yourself controlled by these impurities (*James 5:16, 1 John 1:9*)? What resources are available?
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

High School Technology Discussion Aid - Communication

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying...”
Ephesians 4:29

Teaching Principle: Due to the ease, immediacy, and perceived anonymity of social media, technology in today’s society has the potential to encourage communication which is not God-honoring.

Questions to be answered individually:

- Have you ever said something you regret? Y / N
- Have you ever sent an email, text, or tweet you wish you could have back or which was completely misunderstood? Y / N
- Have your friendships or relationships ever suffered due to misunderstood communication? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) Read *Ephesians 4:29*. What is considered good communication “*to the use of edifying*”? What is considered “*corrupt communication*”? Contrast the two:
 - 2) How does technology (Facebook, twitter, texting, etc.) and the internet increase the ability to have corrupt communication? Give examples.
 - a. Abraham Lincoln would always wait a day before he would return a disagreeable letter to someone. Why is this period of delay wise? Explain why this is difficult with the social media of today.
 - b. How does the sense of anonymity affect your communication on the internet?
 - 3) Study *James 3:1-13*. What are the dangers of our tongue/communication? What can be the consequences?
 - 4) Create a checklist to analyze if your communication is edifying. Use *Philippians 4:8* as your model.
 - 5) How do you examine if you have violated the Bible’s standard on communication? What is the path to reconciliation/forgiveness to those you may have offended (*Matthew 5:23-24, I John 1:9*)?
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

High School Technology Discussion Aid - Reality & Deception

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

Teaching Principle: Technology in today’s society has the potential to lead to deception from a lost view of reality and from inaccurate sources of information.

Questions to be answered individually:

- When you read something posted online, do you take it at face value? Y / N
- Have you ever engaged in online activity with the deliberate motive of deceiving someone? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) What are some dangers of taking everything we read at face value?
 - 2) As we “*prove all things*” (*1 Thess. 5:21-22*), what standards are we encouraged to hold by the rest of these verses? What do these standards mean in regards to technology?
 - 3) Describe how we can discern the accuracy of information on the internet. How about from social media?
 - 4) Technology brings a certain sense of secrecy. Why is it enticing to be less than honest when using technology or communicating via technology?
 - 5) How can this draw of secrecy affect our long term spiritual life? How can it affect our desire for accountability? Describe ways to “*abstain*” from this “*appearance of evil*.”
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

High School Technology Discussion Aid - Time Usage

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
Ephesians 5:15-16

Teaching Principle: Technology in today’s society has the potential to lead to the misuse of our time and the possibility of having our time dominated by technology.

Questions to be answered individually:

- How much time do you spend daily on the internet or social media? Place an X on the line below:

0 hours

8 hours

16 hours

- Do you ever find yourself avoiding responsibility by spending time online? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) How does technology help us waste time or control how we spend time? List examples of ways we spend time on technology:
 - 2) Read *Ephesians 5:15-16*. Describe what it looks like to “redeem the time.”
 - 3) Why is God interested in how we spend our time?
 - 4) Evaluate how much of your time in a typical day is spent on technology. At what point do you personally think someone is spending too much time with technology?
 - 5) What proactive steps can be taken if you find your time dominated by technology (*1 Corinthians 6:12*)?
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Middle School Technology Discussion Aid - Purity

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..."

Psalm 101:3

Teaching Principle: Technology in today's society has the potential to lead to and encourage impurity within our lives.

Questions to be answered individually:

- Do you feel you have a clear understanding of what is good and bad in God's eyes? Y / N
- Have you ever been exposed to dirty, bad, or violent images/content on the internet and/or technology? Y / N
- Have you ever found yourself purposely seeking out or sharing inappropriate images/content using technology? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Habakkuk 1:13, "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?"

- 1) According to the above two verses, how does God look upon purity and impurity?
 - 2) List positive uses of technology. Consider internet, texting, cell phones, TV/movies, etc.
 - 3) Read *Psalm 101:3*. Identify possible examples of "wicked things" in the following:
 - a. Internet/Facebook:
 - b. Texting/twitter:
 - c. Video games:
 - d. TV/movies:
 - 4) Consider this situation:

You are with a group of friends and one of them has an inappropriate picture on his/her iPod. They want to Instagram the picture and tag all of you in the photo. Your stomach instantly gets a funny, uneasy feeling. When you say "I don't really think that's a good idea", your friends all reply "it's okay, our parents won't see it. It will be funny." What do you do?
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Middle School Technology Discussion Aid - Communication

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying..."

Ephesians 4:29

Teaching Principle: Due to the ease, immediacy, and perceived anonymity of social media, technology in today's society has the potential to encourage communication which is not God-honoring.

Questions to be answered individually:

- Have you ever said something you regret? Y / N
- Have you ever sent an email, text, or tweet you wish you could have back or which was completely misunderstood? Y / N
- Have your friendships ever had problems because of misunderstood communication? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) Read *Ephesians 4:29*. Identify some examples of the following phrases:
 - a. Communication "*to the use of edifying* [encouraging someone]":
 - b. "*corrupt* [not God-honoring] *communication*":
- 2) How does social media (Facebook, twitter, Instagram, etc.) and the internet increase the possibility to have "*corrupt communication*"?
- 3) Abraham Lincoln would always wait a day before he would reply to a negative letter someone had sent him. Why would it be wise to wait sometimes before responding to someone? Explain why this is difficult with the social media of today.
- 4) How can a sense of secrecy or being private affect your communication on the internet?

Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

- 5) Using *Philippians 4:8* as your model create a checklist to think through if your spoken and online communication is God-honoring.
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Middle School Technology Discussion Aid - Reality & Deception

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

Teaching Principle: Technology in today’s society has the potential to lead to deception from a lost view of reality and from inaccurate sources of information.

Questions to be answered individually:

- When you read something posted online, do you believe it? Y / N
- Have you ever used technology to purposefully deceive someone? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) What are some of the dangers of believing everything we read online?
 - 2) How do we “*prove all things* [determine good or evil]” (*1 Thess. 5:21-22*)? What is our standard according to these verses?
 - 3) Explain how we can determine what truth is and what truth isn’t on the internet. How about from Facebook, twitter, Instagram, chat rooms or through texts?
 - 4) Technology can also bring a certain sense of secrecy. How does this affect our actions/decisions? Why is it tempting to not be 100% honest when using or communicating on technology?
 - 5) How can this sense of secrecy affect our spiritual life? How can it affect our openness with our parents and friends? What are ways to “*abstain* [avoid]” from this “*appearance of evil*” (*1 Thess. 5:22*)?
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Middle School Technology Discussion Aid - Time Usage

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

Ephesians 5:15-16

Teaching Principle: Technology in today’s society has the potential to lead to the misuse of our time and the possibility of having our time dominated by technology.

Questions to be answered individually:

- How much time do you spend daily on the internet or social media? Place an X on the line below:

0 hours

8 hours

16 hours

- Do you ever find yourself avoiding responsibility by spending time online/using technology? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) How can technology control how we spend time or waste time? List your top 3 uses of technology:
 - 2) Read *Ephesians 5:15-16*. What does “*redeeming the time*” [using your time wisely] look like? Why is God interested in how we spend our time?
 - 3) How much of your time in a typical day do you spend on technology? Describe what it looks like when someone spends too much time with technology.
 - 4) What steps can be taken if you find yourself spending too much time on technology?
(*1 Corinthians 6:12*)
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Grade School Technology Discussion Aid - Purity

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..."

Psalm 101:3

Teaching Principle: Technology in today's society has the potential to lead to and encourage impurity within our lives.

Questions to be answered individually:

- Do you feel you understand what is good and bad in God's eyes? Y / N
- Have you ever seen dirty, bad or violent images/content on the internet, movies, television, or video games? Y / N
- Have you ever purposely sought out dirty, bad, or violent images/content on the internet, television, movies or video games? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

1) Read *Psalm 101:3*. What does it say we should not do? Use your own words to explain.

2) What are some possible examples of "*wicked things*" in the following:

a. Internet/Facebook:

b. TV/movies:

c. Texting:

3) Consider this situation:

You are at a friend's house and he/she suggests watching a movie you know your parents don't approve of because of the bad scenes. When you say "I'm not allowed to watch that", your friend replies "it's okay, my parents are fine with it." What do you do?

Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Grade School Technology Discussion Aid - Communication

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying...”

Ephesians 4:29

Teaching Principle: Due to the ease, immediacy, and perceived anonymity of social media, technology in today’s society has the potential to encourage communication which is not God-honoring.

Questions to be answered individually:

- Have you ever said something you wish you could change? Y / N
- Have you ever been misunderstood? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) Why is what we say to others so important?

- 2) How can communicating [sending information] on Facebook, email or through texting often not be the best way to communicate? How can this type of communication go wrong?

Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

- 3) Read *Philippians 4:8*. What kind of communication does God want us to “*think on?*”
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Grade School Technology Discussion Aid - Reality/Fantasy

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil."

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

Teaching Principle: Technology in today's society has the potential to lead to deception from a lost view of reality and from inaccurate sources of information.

Questions to be answered individually:

- Do you understand the difference between reality and fantasy? Y / N
- Circle one: I spend most of my time thinking about REAL or NON-REAL things, people and events.

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) List 3 real things/people you enjoy.

- 2) List 3 non-real things/people you enjoy.

Ecclesiastes 6:9, "Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire..."

- 3) How can fantasies [imagnations] sometimes be dangerous in God's eyes?

 - 4) How can spending too much time on the internet, watching television or movies, or playing video games make it harder for us to separate what is real from what is not real?
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Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids

Grade School Technology Discussion Aid - Time Usage

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Ephesians 5:15-16

Teaching Principle: Technology in today's society has the potential to lead to the misuse of our time and the possibility of having our time dominated by technology.

Questions to be answered individually:

- How much time screen time do you spend each day on the internet, watching TV/movies, or playing video games? Circle one.
0-2 hours 2-4 hours 4-6 hours 6+ hours
- Do you ever avoid being with family & friends or doing chores because you are online, watching TV/movies, or playing video games? Y / N

Questions to be discussed as a group:

- 1) Besides being in school, what are the top 3 things you spend most of your time doing each day?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 2) What could be some possible dangers of spending too much time online, watching TV/movies or playing video games?
 - 3) Read *Ephesians 5:15-16*. Why is God interested in how we spend our time? What would be some good ways to make sure you do not spend too much time on things that are not important in God's eyes?
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