

Marriage • Parenting • Spiritual Growth • Sexuality • Relationships • Mental Health
Men • Women • Hurts and Emotions • Singles • Ministers and Mentors • Technology



a resource in:
Sunday School

Technology Lessons
High School



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Lesson 1 - Purity

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

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

Lesson Objectives:

1. The student will understand technology can lead to and encourage us into impure activities.
2. The student will understand Scripture should be our standard in determining right from wrong.
3. The student will understand we should be always watchful and alert to avoid inappropriate and sinful content on the internet.
4. The student will understand that filters and monitors are helpful tools, but accountability to parents is also a necessity.

Scripture:

Psalm 101:3, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..."

Philippians 1:27, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."

James 1:13-16, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren."

Proverbs 22:3, "A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on and are punished."

2 Timothy 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Content:

- Everything we do, view, or hear should be done in consistency with the mind of Christ.
- The Scriptures provides us a standard for what is pure and consistent with the mind of Christ.
- We should test what we use technology for, or access with it, against Scripture to determine if it is pure.
- Instead of asking ourselves if we will enjoy watching a movie, listening to a song, looking at images on a website, etc., we should ask ourselves if God would want us to do so.
- With the diversity and number of devices allowing us 24/7 access to technology, opportunities to access impure content or use technology for impure motives and actions is prevalent in our society today.
- Filters and monitors can be useful tools that help guard us against impure content, but they are not foolproof.
- If we encounter impure or evil content, we should find a way to immediately stop viewing or hearing it. Having a plan in our mind of what to do if this occurs will enable us to find a way of escape from the temptation.
- Being accountable to parents and/or another adult mentor in how we use technology is wise in guarding our purity.

Technology

Discussion Questions:

1. What does *Psalms 24:3-4*, *Habakkuk 1:13*, and *Matthew 5:8* portray about God's view of purity? 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, 4; 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?

Activity:

1. Acrostic Poem Reflection: Have students create an acrostic poem such as the one below for lessons they learned from today or actions they will take to safeguard themselves to stay pure when using technology. Other possible words to use for an acrostic about today's lesson include: PURE, SAFE, or TECH.
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2. Object Lesson: (Materials needed: three sealed water bottles, small container with dirt, funnel, spoon)
 - a. Ask if anyone is thirsty and would they like a drink. Have them drink some from one bottle or drink some yourself. Discuss what it tastes like – pure water.
 - i. Compare this good water to a soul that is pure. Nothing is in the water to contaminate it, just like a pure soul has nothing evil or sinful within to contaminate it.
 - b. Remove the lid from another bottle of water and add several spoonfuls of dirt, using funnel if necessary. Ask anyone if they would like to drink from this water bottle.
 - i. Compare this water to those websites we know to be bad or content we know before viewing it that it will be sinful. We know to avoid this type of impurity.
 - c. Remove the lid from the last bottle and add just a pinch of dirt to the bottle, so that it does not become obvious. Ask anyone if they would like to drink this water.
 - i. Compare this water to opportunities using technology in which it is not immediately obvious that we have ventured into some sinful. Discuss how we must be watchful and alert, and rely upon the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit to warn us of danger.

Technology

Lesson 2 - Communication

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

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

Lesson Objectives:

1. The student will understand technology can make it easy to communicate in ways that do not honor God.
2. The student will understand the Scriptures show us how we should communicate with others, whether it is face-to-face or with the use of technology.
3. The student will understand that technology can encourage us to react quickly and rashly, which conflicts with being Christ-like.
4. The student will understand the lack of face-to-face contact with technology can lead to withdrawal and isolation from others.

Scripture:

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

James 3:5-10, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

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."

Content:

- All communication we have with others should honor Christ and encourage others, no matter if it is face-to-face or with any technological device.
- The Scriptures provides us a standard for how to communicate in ways that are Christ-like and encourage others.
- We should ask ourselves before we send any message, image, etc. to an individual, group of people, or post publicly whether it is something Christ would share or say.
- When we are tempted to respond in a quick, angry manner, we should wait until our anger has subsided and we can respond in a calm, compassionate manner.
- If we have violated the Bible's standard on communication, we should apologize and ask for forgiveness from God and the people/persons we offended.

Technology

Discussion Questions:

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, Instagram, Snap Chat, texting, etc.) and the internet increase the ability to have corrupt communication? Give examples.
3. Abraham Lincoln would always wait a day before he would return a disagreeable letter to someone. Why is the period of delay wise? Explain why this is difficult with the social media of today.
4. How does the sense of anonymity affect your communication on the internet?
5. How can the focus on sharing one’s own thoughts, activities, etc. create a self-centered viewpoint versus a God-centered viewpoint?
6. Study *James 3:1-13*. What are the dangers of our tongue/communication? What can be the consequences?
7. Create a checklist to analyze if your communication is edifying. Use *Philippians 4:8* as your model.
8. 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*)?

Activity:

1. Godly Tweets Reflection: Have students create tweets that summarize the lesson from today in 140 characters or less. Some examples follow:
 - a. Before posting: ask would Jesus send this message or share this image?
 - b. Use technology to build others up and show God’s love.
2. Application Activity: Challenge the students to apply the following checklist for their communications with others this week. Have them write down their reflections in journals to share in class the following week:

Before you speak, ask yourself:

 - T: Is it true?
 - H: Is it honest?
 - I: Is it inspiring?
 - N: Is it necessary?
 - K: Is it kind?

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3. Communication Challenge: Create copies of the following list (or modify as deemed appropriate for your class) to share with students. For the next month, challenge students to do the following in their communications using technology. Have them check off what they do and perhaps even bring copies of their posts, messages, etc. to share in class with others.
 - a. Only post and repost things that honor Christ and encourage others.
 - b. Delete any posts that do not honor Christ or that hurt others.
 - c. At least once a week, post something encouraging to/about someone else.
 - d. At least once a week, post a Bible verse or song verse.
 - e. At least twice, post something encouraging to/about your parents.
 - f. At least once, have a conversation with someone about faith.
 - g. At least once, post a prayer request.
 - h. At least once, post a testimony of answered prayer.

4. Object Lesson: (Materials needed: toothpaste, spoon, paper plate)
 - a. Ask a student to squeeze toothpaste onto the paper plate. Tell him or her to squeeze out as much as he/she wants.
 - b. Ask this student to try and put it back in with a spoon. Perhaps even ask several students.
 - c. Discuss how it is impossible to take our words back, just as it is impossible to put toothpaste back in the tube once it is squeezed out. Even if a social media post is deleted, the person still remembers it and consequences in our relationship with that person or others remain.

Technology

Lesson 3 - Reality & Deception

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

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.

Lesson Objectives:

1. The student will understand that technology has the potential to lead us to be deceived from a lost view of reality and inaccurate sources of information.
2. The student will understand that the Scriptures provide us a standard for measuring the values, beliefs, and purposes of the author(s) of the information.
3. The student will understand that seeking counsel and wisdom of experienced believers can be helpful in discerning the truth on a topic.

Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil."

Proverbs 24:6, "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Content:

- The continued increase of technology has led to the increase of resources for information; including sources that are good, neutral, or evil.
- Not all information available with technology is true or reliable, and often reflects only a small portion of viewpoints.
- Our society gives little thought to determining whether sources provide reliable or accurate information.
- All information we gather with technology should be proven against the standards of the Scriptures.
- We should pray for the Holy Spirit to teach us to discern truth through searching the Scriptures.
- When discerning whether the information is true, we should evaluate the values, beliefs, and purposes of the author(s) to determine if it aligns with biblical truth.
- Seeking the counsel of experienced believers is also helpful in determining whether information or statements of belief align with the Scriptures.

Discussion Questions:

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."

Technology

Activity:

1. Story to Discuss: (adapted from *Fool's Gold* by John MacArthur [Crossway], p.195-196). After reading the below story, discuss the following:
 - a. How does this story depict a lack of discernment?
 - b. Although this story deals with a man's large, earthly fortune, why is one's soul and eternity more valuable than \$83 million?
 - c. How should we exercise discernment when reading information or beliefs espoused by others online or through social media?

Aben Johnson, a wealthy man, wanted to invest in gemstones. He spent a total of \$83 million investing in a variety of diamonds through a Florida-based jeweler, Jack Hasson. This investment included \$3 million on a blue diamond that Sam Walton (founder of Walmart) had won playing poker, \$2.7 million for a diamond collection called the Russian Blue, \$17 million for a collection of diamonds that belonged to Sam Walton's daughter Sylvia, and other costly gems. Later, Johnson found out he had not bought genuine gems, but rather had unknowingly invested in almost worthless fake diamonds. Furthermore, Sam Walton did not even have a daughter Sylvia. After finding out the truth, Johnson sued Hasson and a year later the FBI arrested Hasson for fraud. Hasson was convicted in 2000, sentenced to 40 years in prison, and ordered to pay back more than \$78 million. However, it is highly unlikely Johnson will recover his \$83 million. By 2005, Johnson had only recovered about half of the stolen money. Johnson could have used some discernment by having a gem expert examine the diamonds, rather than losing his fortune.

2. Song Discussion: "Prove Ye Every Spirit," Zion's Harp #127
 - a. Discuss this song in light of today's lesson on deception and proving all things against the Scriptures.
 - b. Have students individually select two phrases of the song that they believe could be helpful for discerning whether information found using technology is true.
 - c. Discuss students' select phrases and possible real-life examples that show how to put the song phrases into practice.
3. Object Lesson: A Good Egg? (Materials needed: one boiled egg, one raw egg)
 - a. Ask students if they can tell the difference between the boiled egg and the raw egg.
 - b. Show the students how when you spin both eggs, one egg spins more slowly and wobbles. When you touch the eggs just a little, the more wobbly egg will continue to spin longer. The egg that spins more slowly should be the raw egg.
 - c. Other ways to possibly tell the difference between raw and boiled eggs: (1) shake the egg and the one that is raw should sound like it has liquid inside and (2) hold a small flashlight on the side of the eggs and the one that lights up like a lantern should be the raw egg.
 - d. Crack open both eggs to see if they were able to identify which was the raw egg and which was boiled.
 - e. Discuss how difficult it was to tell if the egg was boiled or raw just by looking at the outside of the egg. Tests had to be done to determine which one was cooked. Compare this to how we cannot tell the truth by looking only on the "outside." It can all look believable on the outside. We must weigh everything against the truth found in God's Word and the counsel of experienced believers.

Technology

Lesson 4 - Time Usage

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

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.

Lesson Objectives:

1. The student will understand technology has the potential to lead us into misusing or dominating our time.
2. The student will understand God cares how we spend our time and wants us to use it for productive activities that fulfill His purposes.
3. The student will understand we must undergo self-examination in order to keep from becoming addicted to social media, gaming, internet surfing, or other misuses of technology.

Scripture:

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

I Corinthians 6:12, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

Content:

- One of the dangers of technology is the temptation it poses in wasting and dominating our time.
- We should have self-control in all our activities that deal with technology.
- Without being consciously aware of our time, even wholesome activities that appear to be productive can still dominate our time and prevent us from living a varied, healthy lifestyle.
- Overusing technology can limit us from other beneficial activities and minimize our opportunities to participate in a variety of healthy, educational, servant-minded activities.
- We should frequently check the amount of time we are spending with technology to determine if we are becoming addicted to social media, gaming, internet surfing, or other more serious misuses of technology.
- We should replace unnecessary and time-wasting activities using technology with those that would lead to fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

Technology

Discussion Questions:

1. How does technology help us waste time or control how we spend time? List examples of ways we spend time on technology.
2. Thinking of *Ephesians 5:15-16*, what does it look 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 too much technology (*1 Corinthians 6:12*)?

Activity:

1. Redeeming the Time Challenge: Read *Colossians 3:16-17* together. Brainstorm ways in which technology, including social media, could be used to fulfill these verses. Possible examples include: praying for each person who posts something on a Twitter feed; look at photos posted on Instagram and think about how God sees these people as His creation; or message, call, or go visit in person someone who appears to be hurting. Challenge students to try out several ideas on the brainstorm list this week and come prepared next week to share how they lived up to this challenge.
2. Song Discussion: “Take Time to Be Holy,” Hymns of Zion # 112
 - a. Discuss this song in light of today’s lesson on technology dominating our use of time.
 - b. List the ways in which the song promotes using our time to “redeem the time.”
 - c. Talk about how we can replace temptations to waste time with technology by some of the activities listed in this song.
3. Object Lesson: Our Time is Valuable (Two Clear Water Glasses, Pitcher of Water, Pie Pan, Pennies)
 - a. Place water glass in the pie pan. Pour water into the glass and describe how the water in the glass represents how much time we are given in life. For some people it is short and others it is a long life.
 - b. Fill the glass completely full of water, but not overflowing. Talk about how it does not matter how many years we have, but rather what we do with the years that matters.
 - c. Place another water glass in the pie pan. Fill the other glass completely full of water, but not overflowing. In this glass, drop in one penny at a time until the glass overflows with water. Compare the glass that had no pennies and the glass that had several pennies. Each one of these glasses had water to the top, but one has value in the glass of water as well.
 - d. Compare the one that has coins in the water as someone who used their time wisely, who redeemed their time for the Lord by what they chose to fill their years with. Each penny is not much, just like every moment used wisely seems small. However, it can add up to have great value. Compare the one without coins in the water as someone who did not use their time wisely, who spent it on their own self-pleasures or wasted it with overusing technology for unfruitful purposes. Talk about who had more value in their life and why.