

Parent Connect Resources

Technology

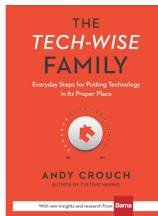
Technology shapes every aspect of our lives. And God in his good design has allowed us to have this kind of impact in the world with our inventions! We see the effects of this shaping in our own lives as well as that of our kids and students. If we are not intentional, we will be disciplined and shaped by technology in ways we are not actively aware of. The resources below help us engage in this conversation of how technology shapes us with practical tools to begin to disciple the kids and students in your home for a love of Jesus to fill our relationship with our devices.



Digital Liturgies: Rediscovering Christian Wisdom in an Online Age, by Samuel D James

“When we put the digital liturgies of our age up against the truth of the gospel, we see just how flimsy, how untrue, and how unsatisfying the spirit of the web age really is.” This book examines the connection between patterns in technology and human desires that shape us and it calls readers to live faithfully before Christ, finding wisdom through Scripture and rest in God’s perfect design.

You can also watch the author Samuel D James, talk about his book at the Focus on the Family/Colson Center Lighthouse Voices.

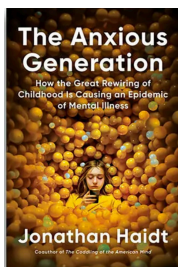
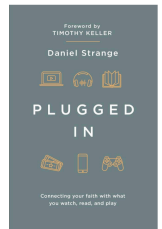


The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place, by Andy Crouch

This book is about helping families reclaim real life in a world of devices. Discerning the place of technology in our families is about more than just internet filters and screen-time limits. It is about building character, wisdom, and courage rather than accepting technology’s promise of ease and instant gratification. This practical book walks through ten commitments for tech-wise families that help put technology in its proper place.

Plugged In: Connecting Your Faith With What You Watch, Read, and Play, by Daniel Strange

We live in a world of constant information which requires us to ask the questions “how do we know what is true?” and “how do we know what is right?” We all consume culture through what we watch, read, play and engage with and our responses can often be to “look in,” to stick our heads in the sand and disengage; to “lash out” in judgement or harsh moralism; or “looking like” making us indistinguishable from unbelievers around us. This book gives Christians tools to engage in positive and discerning ways.



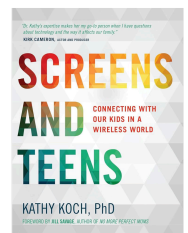
Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness, by Jonathan Haidt

In this important book, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt explores the epidemic of teen mental health looking specifically at what he calls “the great rewiring of childhood.” He argues that the move from a play-based childhood to a phone-based childhood has changed the social and neurological development of children leading to what we see in the mental health decline. He issues a collective challenge for action with ways that this can be addressed at the government level, school level, and family level. Every one who works with kids and students should read this book. Check out this short video summary of the Anxious Generation key ideas.



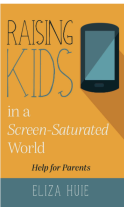
Screens and Teens: Connecting With Our Kids In A Wireless World, by Kathy Koch

This book is about how technology influences the beliefs and behaviors of teens and how parents can connect with their children to influence them positively. It looks at the connection between technology and our deepest needs and then addresses five lies that technology is telling our teens today, giving parents practical tools to walk with their children in our screen focused world.



Taming the Technology Monster: 8 Guiding Principles for Raising Digital Natives, by Sissy Goff

This short booklet walks through 8 principles to help parents engage in conversations with their children who are digital natives, having grown up in a world surrounded by technology. Written from a counselor who has worked with countless parents, students and families, this booklet is accessible and practical, giving parents tools to walk with their kids in our world of technology.

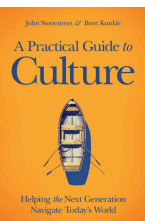


Raising Kids in a Screen-Saturated World, by Eliza Huie

We live in a screen-saturated world that presents us and our kids and students with the constant presence of screens. This easy to read book answers many of the questions that parents have about kids and screens helping to equip parents as they raise kids and students in a screen-saturated world.

12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You, by Tony Reinke

Do you control your phone - or does your phone control you? Never offline, always within reach, we now live in a world where we are never more connected and efficient, yet we seem to be growing more distant and distracted. In this book, Tony Reinke outlines twelve potent ways our smartphones have changed us—for good and bad and calls us to cultivate wise thinking and healthy habits in the digital age.



A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World, by John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle

This hugely practical book helps guide parents and others as they navigate today's world with the kids and students in their care. It starts by looking at the undercurrents of culture that shape the changing cultural waves that we see influencing our kids and students. Then it looks specifically at a couple of the current cultural waves such as technology giving practical ways that parents can engage in conversations and walk with their kids and students.



Biblical Resources to Help Parents Disciple Their Teens

Axis Cultural Translator

A weekly email to help you stay up to date on the music, movies, TV shows, and social media trends impacting your student's world. Each email looks at different cultural trends or events from the last week and includes questions you can ask your students.



Axis Parent Guides

Parent Guides educate and prepare you to have confident conversations with your student about big topics like mental health, technology use, bullying, and more. They will answer your questions and equip you to dive deeper with your student.



An Axis Course On Media Literacy and Discernment

Media literacy is about becoming more discerning consumers of media—but it's also about understanding the unique mediums that bring us that content, and how those inform the messages we absorb. This Axis course examines several different types of mediums (or "media"), discusses how to deepen our media literacy, and shares tips for how to become more discerning with AI, social media, news, statistics, music, movies, video games, and so much more.



An Axis Course On The "Everything Smartphone" Guided Toolkit

This Axis course looks at smartphones from a Bible-based perspective, giving parents practical tools to help navigate the world of smartphones with their students. This kit unpacks what's at stake in the smartphone conversation for students and families and highlights what parents can do and are doing to help their students navigate smartphones from a Christian point of view.



Plugged In, Focus on the Family's media and technology discernment website

Plugged.com helps shine a light on the world of popular entertainment while giving families the essential tools they need to understand, navigate, and impact the culture in which they live. They offer reviews of popular movies, books, tv, music, and games, giving families guidance and discussion questions to help spark intellectual thought and discernment.

Common Sense Media is another website that provides movie/tv/book/game reviews for parents.



Protect Young Eyes

Protect Young Eyes exists to help families, schools, and churches create safer digital spaces by providing tools and resources to help “tame the tech and reconnect.” They offer parent courses, device guides about how to protect different technologies in your home, app reviews, and other recommended resources. This website is full of helpful content for parents.



Accountability and Filtering Resources for Parents



Bark

Bark is resource that provides parents tools to monitor and control their kids and students screen use. Bark allows parents to monitor texts, social media and online activity, equipping parents to know what their kids and students are doing online as well as providing parents with safety alerts. Bark also helps parents manage screen time, block websites and apps, and track location. Bark has a watch, phone, and app that provide different options for parents.

Custodio

Parental control tools to help keep kids and students screen time safe and balanced across devices. This resource allows you to filter content and apps, monitor activity, set time limits, schedule screen-time moments, track calls and texts, view location, and receive reports and alerts.



Covenant Eyes

Covenant Eyes exists to help people overcome pornography and be restored and transformed. Covenant Eyes focuses on the power of transformative accountability relationships. It allows you freedom through transparency with an app that monitors screen activity and provides protection through blocking. Along with this it provides accountability tracking where your ally receives alerts if concerning activity is detected.



A Liturgy Before Consuming Media



Check our our **Magnify Church Website** for past Parent Connects, resources, events, and other helpful tools.

