

Northcliffe CHURCH

Parenting

IN A DIGITAL AGE





Parents,

Thank you for engaging with these resources that came out of the desire to explore how we tackle digital engagement in the context of our families. As the Family Ministry Team, we are all raising kids and know how challenging that work can be. We are pulled in a dozen different directions, and we can all use a little help and encouragement as we sometimes wear a little thin. One thing we can always count on for encouragement are those moments that we have with our kids where God is showing us the work He is doing in our kids and us as our kids make good decisions, love their family and friends, and display moments that reflect the reality that they are growing toward faith or growing in their faith. However, there are also those days when parenting seems more like a challenge for which we were unprepared.

Nowhere is the challenge of parenting more self-evident than technology. Technology is rapidly evolving, and as our families engage with technology, we have to start asking questions like, "What is good for our family?" "Is this helping our kids know Jesus or put their trust in him?" Are our families stronger because we are using this technology?" or "Is this safe for our kids?"

Hopefully, you will find some ground to answer these questions for you and your family and discover a few questions you haven't yet asked. We hope you will be encouraged by the reality that as we use technology, we aren't alone in the questions we ask or in the process of deciding the level of impact our technology has on our families. You are among our friends as we navigate the benefits and pitfalls of technology in the lives of our families. Our Family Ministry Team designed this digital platform with you as parents in mind. While we worked hard to structure this platform to answer questions and start conversations, this isn't a complete exploration of the issues involved, so we are providing you with additional resources, websites, and other tools that will help you engage well with technology and lead your families well in a digital landscape. Each session will include resources that accompany and deepen the topics discussed in their respective sessions.

We look forward to how these resources can help you and your family as you grow in Christ together.

Your Family Ministry Team,

Ben Ellis, Tim Blankenship, and Erica Hart

Biblical Guardrails for Digital Engagement

Primary Text: Philippians 4:8-9

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Guardrail of what is _____.

The Guardrail of what is _____.

The Guardrail of what is _____.

The Guardrail of what is _____.

The Guardrail of what is _____.

The Guardrail of what is _____.

The Guardrail of what is _____.

10 Tips to Guide Your Family with Technology

Pastor Tim Blankenship

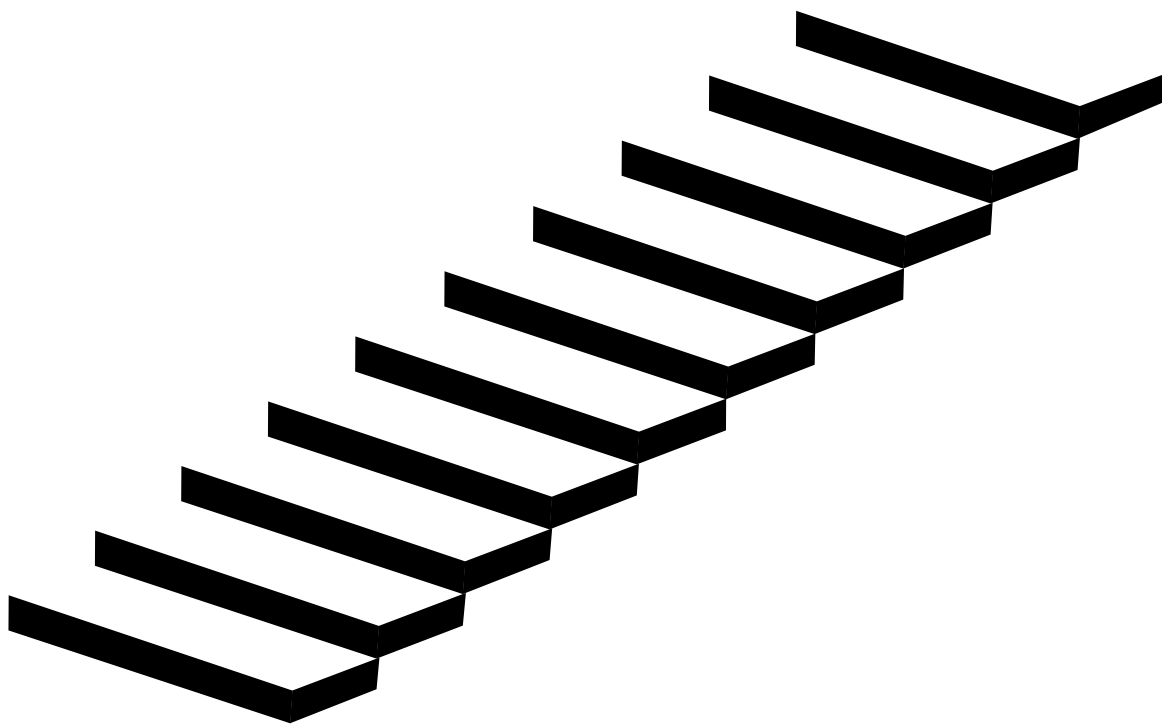
You are as much serving God in looking after your own children, training them up in God's fear, minding the house, and making your household a church for God as you would be if you had been called to lead an army into battle for the Lord of Hosts."

-Charles Spurgeon

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Resources

"Parenting Beyond Your Capacity" by Reggie Joyner and Carey Nieuwhof

"Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a new Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon" David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock

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

"Beyond the screen: Youth Ministry for the Connected but Alone Generation" Andrew Zirschky

"Screens and Teens: Connecting with Our Kids in a Wireless World" Kathy Koch

The Gospel Coalition: "4 Questions to Answer Before Giving Your Child a Phone" <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/questions-before-child-phone>

The Source For Parents, <https://thesource4parents.com/parenting-help/>

"It is only rest in God's presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent"

-Paul David Tripp

Parent-Child Phone Contract

1. **The phone belongs to the parental unit(s).** I/we allow you to use it, provided that you abide by the terms below. If you do not, I/we will take the phone away, and you will have to earn it back.
2. **I will always know the password for this phone and any app.**
I will monitor your phone regularly, including text messages, videos, and apps. If there's an issue, we will discuss it together.
3. **Always answer your parents' calls and texts.** If you miss one, return it immediately.
4. **Usage Times.** Give the phone to a parent at _____ p.m. every school night and every weekend night at ____ p.m.
5. **Don't call or text people if you can talk to them in person.** Live in the moment, not on your phone.
6. **School:** Follow school rules about cell phones.
7. **If your phone is damaged or stolen, you are responsible for the replacement costs or repairs.** If anything happens to it in your possession, you are responsible. The same is true if a friend does something to it.
8. I permit you to use this phone because I trust you and believe you are a good person capable of making good choices. **Do not use this technology to speak ill of another human being.** Any form of bullying or rude behavior will result in phone loss. Be kind always: online, on your phone, in person. Also, be honest.

Child Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____



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