

"Let's Talk About Technology"



THE TALK.

A NOTE TO LEADERS

Please remember, we want you to be able to be honest and vulnerable about where God has brought victory personally in your life, **but please share in a way that is age appropriate for your audience. Be cautious** in what you share, speaking generally and avoiding specifics or graphic comments. If you even question sharing something personal could cause a student to struggle, then especially for this series, hold off sharing.

This week and next week's lesson are closely related. **This week is encouraging students to think through what they post online and next week's lesson encourages them to think through what they view online.** We know that students could ask questions on either topic, so you'll have to make a call on how much you have time to answer. For example, if a student asks something about what they view like: "Well, what about things that pop up on my screen I've seen that I couldn't help?" You could say something like, "That is a really great question! We are going to talk even more about what we see online next week but in short what happens outside our control, like something popping up, isn't a sin. What can be a sin is when we choose to look or keep looking at something." **If a student asks a question that you can tell has a lot of emotion or struggle behind it, especially in private, you shouldn't wait until next week.** For example, if a student tells you they are struggling to stop watching pornography, engage in conversation about it right when they share.

- **First, affirm** them for being vulnerable enough to tell you and to step up and ask for help. THAT IS HUGE!
- **If you are a high school student, ask if you both could go talk with an adult small group leader or staff** so we can walk alongside of you.
- **Let them know you'll be praying for them and there is some accountability software** they can use to help them (see below)
- **Remind them the more trusted people "on their team" helping them fight this struggle the better!** This includes parents! While watching pornography isn't a mandated reporting item you legally have to tell parents, **we highly encourage students to share this with their parents.** Your student may be terrified, but encourage them it's in their best interest and even offer to be with them with they tell their parents if that will help.

ACCOUNTABILITY SOFTWARE RESOURCES

Ever Accountable: <https://www.everaccountable.com/>

Accountable2you.app: <https://www.accountable2you.com/features>

Covenant eyes (better for computer): <http://www.covenanteyes.com/>

Net Nanny (gives deeper parental controls): <https://www.netnanny.com>

Triple X Church (free but limited): <https://x3watch.com/>

MAIN POINT: What happens online doesn't stay online.

OPENER:

Pick one or two of the questions below and have each of your students give an answer just to get them all talking:

- 1.** How many hours a day do you think you spend on technology? (Phone, computers, tv, etc.)
- 2.** What are some benefits of technology?
- 3.** What are some downfalls of technology?

UNPACK:

*Technology is shaping your generation than any other generation ever before. That's often times why those older than you may not "get it" the way you do. While technology brings a lot of really great things, it adds a new layer of struggle against some things, including temptation. **Today we are going to talk about how you can be wise in what you post.***

Three big take aways we want you to remember are:

- 1) Interaction with your screen is real life**
- 2) What happens online doesn't stay online**
- 3) Is what you are posting honoring God and how He wants you to live?**

ASK:

- 1.** In what ways do you think people act differently online or on their phones than in person?
- 2.** What do you think about the quote from the video: "The technology we possess tempts us to act in ways that are normally out of character for us."
- 3.** In what ways can our online lives effect our "real life" lives?
- 4.** This question is rhetorical, meaning don't answer it out loud but think about it: "How comfortable would you feel if we all scrolled through all your posts and snapchat convos right now?"

READ:

1 Corinthians 6: 18-20

¹⁸Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.
¹⁹Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

ASK:

- 1. How would you describe to a friend what this verse is asking us to do and why?*
- 2. If we believe that our bodies belong to God, how should it effect the way we think about sex and technology?*
- 3. If we believe that other people's bodies belong to God, how should it effect the way we treat others online?*
- 4. When it comes to technology, what are ways you can honor God with what you post? (Ex: if you'd feel guilty if your grandma or small group leader saw what you were typing or posting, don't post it!)*

DO:

Jesus loves us an INCREDIBLE amount - actually He loves us UNCONDITIONALLY - which means even when we make mistakes He still loves us and wants us to draw closer to Him. **Jesus wants us to have full lives, and He knows that lust and sexual temptation can lure us down a path that ultimately causes us pain.** That is why He warns us to not just try to stay away, but to RUN! **He also says His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, lives inside of us and His Spirit can help us to overcome this temptation!** We don't have to figure this all out on our own!

NEXT STEP: You may have had something come to mind during this lesson that you have posted or are doing that know you like might not be a good thing to do. **If that is you, ask God's forgiveness and one way you can keep from doing this in the future. If that isn't you, pray and ask God to help keep you from falling into this trap.**
Close your time together in prayer.