

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

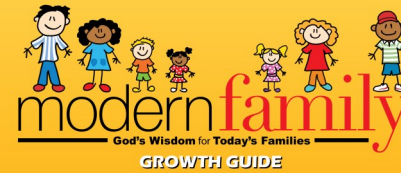
Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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Modern Family Technology

If there is one word that sums up how many of us feel about technology and family life, it's Help! Parents know we need help. We love the way devices make our lives easier amid the stress and busyness that fill our days. We love the way screens can, almost magically, absorb our children's attention and give us a few moments of quiet in the car or before dinner. We admire the ease with which our children master technology, the prowess they show with video games, the bursts of creativity in the arts, movies, and music that devices help them produce.

But we also sense the precious days of childhood are passing by, far too fast, in a haze of ghostly blue light. We watch as the inevitable intensity of teenage relationships is raised to near-toxic levels by a sleep-depriving, round-the-clock deluge of messages. We feel helpless to prevent them from overexposure, far too early, to the most violent and intimate facts of life. Parents feel out of control, hopelessly overmatched by the deluge of devices. And we can't even count on one another to back us up. Parents who set limits on their children's use of technology often experience intense peer pressure—from other parents!

The kids know we need help too. They see how addicted their own parents are to devices. Apple introduced the groundbreaking iPhone in 2007. An awful lot of children born in 2007 have been competing with their parents' screens for attention their whole lives. They see their parents tethered to their laptops, trying to stay ahead of work that has spilled out of the office into evenings and weekends. Older kids know the sick-to-the-stomach feeling of having binged on a video game for days on end (just as their parents know that queasy too-much-Netflix feeling). They've watched as their most media-savvy peers, the ones with a thousand followers from their high school or a million followers from all over the world, first expose themselves, then overexpose themselves, and go from reveling in the attention to breaking under the weight of others' expectations and derision.

There is a better way. It doesn't require us to become Amish, entirely separating ourselves from the modern technological world, and it doesn't require us to deny the real benefits that technology provides our families and our wider society. But let me be direct and honest: this better way is radical. It requires making choices that most of our neighbors aren't making. It requires making choices that most of our neighbors in church aren't making.

This better way involves radically recommitting ourselves to what family is about—what real life is about. Our homes aren't meant to be just refueling stations, places where we and our devices rest briefly, top up our charge, and then go back to frantic activity. They are meant to be places where the very best of life happens. No matter what advertising says, the very best of life has almost nothing to do with the devices we buy. It has a lot to do with the choices we make, choices that our devices often make more difficult.

KEY VERSE

Genesis 11:6

“And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.” NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Genesis 11:1-9

Introduction

1. What challenges does technology cause for you and your family?
2. How do family members from a different generations view technology differently?
3. In what ways is our world today like Genesis 11?

Tuesday: I Corinthians 6:12; Proverbs 4:23; I Peter 5:8-9

Develop Family Guidelines for Technology

4. What boundaries do you and your family have for technology?
5. How would you rate the effectiveness of these boundaries?
6. What are some ways you can encourage your family to be present and share real experiences in this digital age?

Wednesday: I Corinthians 10:31; Romans 10:14-15

Deploy Technology For Good

7. How can technology help you and your family?
8. How can you use technology to help you serve the Lord?

Thursday: Psalm 46:10-11; Daniel 9:3

Schedule Time To Unplug

9. How often do you get a break from technology?
10. How can you prevent technology from distracting you from God?

Tip: Consider taking a digital sabbatical or have a digital fast. Consider Unplugging one hour a day, one day a week, and one week a year.
Source: The Tech-Wise Family by Andy Crouch

Friday: Matthew 22:36-40; Exodus 20:3; Romans 12:2

Technology Can Be A Tool Or An Idol

11. How will you keep technology from becoming an idol in your life? If it is already is an idol what will you do to tear it down?
12. What are some steps you will take to use technology as a tool to help your family?