

# **RAISING DIGITAL DISCIPLES**

IN A TECH-DRIVEN WORLD

**CINDY SEKI** 

# Raising Digital Disciples in a Tech-Driven World

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# Raising Digital Disciples in a Tech-Driven World

The soft blue glow of screens illuminates a familiar scene: a family gathered around the dinner table, physically present but mentally elsewhere. Each person is absorbed in their own digital world – Mom checking emails, Dad scrolling social media, and the kids immersed in games.

#### Sound familiar?

This modern portrait raises a crucial question for Christian families: Are we raising digital disciples or digital consumers?

Technology is not the enemy; it is a **tool that can either strengthen or weaken our family's spiritual foundation**. As parents, God has called us to be **intentional shepherds**, guiding our children through the digital landscape with wisdom and biblical principles.

### **The Biblical Call for Intentional Parenting**

In Romans 12:2, God's Word provides clear direction: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." This transformation extends to how we approach technology.

Just as the Israelites were commanded in **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** to **teach God's principles diligently** to their children, today's parents must apply biblical wisdom to digital spaces.

### The Digital Discipleship Challenge

Technology itself isn't the problem—it's how we **allow it to shape** our hearts and habits. The real question is: **Who's in control?** 

Are we **intentionally shaping** our children's digital habits through a biblical lens, or are we allowing technology to shape their worldview by default?

Think of digital discipleship as modern-day shepherding. Just as a shepherd guides his flock through potentially dangerous terrain, **parents must guide their children** through the digital landscape, identifying both opportunities and pitfalls along the way.

### **Reflection Question**

Take a moment to observe your family's technology use over the next 24 hours. **What patterns do you notice?** How do these patterns align with your family's faith values?

### **Practical Tip**

Create a **"Digital Discipleship Declaration"** as a family. Gather everyone together and write down three ways you want technology to serve your family's faith journey rather than hinder it. **Post this declaration where everyone can see it daily.** 

# **Crafting a Digital Mission Statement for Your Family**

One evening, Sarah sat at her kitchen table, struck by a sobering realization: her children could quote their favorite YouTubers verbatim but struggled to recall their weekly Bible verses. This moment of clarity led her and her husband to develop a **purposeful plan for their family's technology use** – starting with a mission statement that aligned their digital habits with their faith values.

### Why Your Family Needs a Digital Mission Statement

In **1 Corinthians 10:31**, Paul reminds us: "*Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*" This includes our digital activities.

A **family digital mission statement** serves as a **compass**, guiding every click, post, and download toward **God-honoring purposes**.

Think of your mission statement as a **filter** for digital decisions. Just as **early American education was founded on biblical principles**, your family's approach to technology should be **rooted in Scripture and guided by purpose**.

### **Creating Your Family's Digital Mission Statement**

Here's a simple framework to help your family craft a meaningful mission statement:

- 1. Begin with Prayer Seek God's wisdom for your family's unique digital journey.
- 2. Identify Core Values What biblical principles matter most to your family?
- 3. Consider Impact How can technology serve these values?
- 4. Write it Together Include every family member in the conversation.
- 5. Keep it Simple Make it memorable and actionable.

A strong mission statement might read:

"As the [Your Family Name] family, we commit to using technology in ways that honor God, strengthen our relationships, and reflect Christ's light in the digital world."

### **Reflection Question**

What **unique opportunities and challenges** does your family face in the digital world? How can your mission statement address these specifically?

### **Practical Tip**

Schedule a "Digital Mission Night" this week. Make it fun with snacks and activities. Have each family member write their vision for technology use, then **combine these insights** into your family's mission statement. Create an artistic version together and **display it near your home's main computer or charging station**.

### **Creating a Digital Mission Statement for Social Media**

Emma's heart sank as she scrolled through her daughter's Instagram post – a harsh comment that had sparked a heated argument in the comments section. This moment became a turning point, leading to an important conversation about representing Christ in digital spaces and the development of a personal social media mission statement.

### The Ministry of Social Media

**Ephesians 4:29** provides timeless wisdom for our online interactions: "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

In today's digital age, our **"mouth" extends to our fingertips**, making every post, comment, and share an opportunity for **ministry or misrepresentation**.

### **Crafting Your Social Media Mission**

Think of your social media presence as a **digital testimony**. Just as early American Christians understood the power of the printed word to shape culture, **we must recognize social media's potential to influence others for Christ**.

### Key Elements to Consider:

- 1. Purpose Why are you on social media?
- 2. Impact How do you want to influence others?
- 3. Boundaries What content aligns with your values?
- 4. Witness How can you share Christ's love digitally?

Your mission statement might begin:

"I commit to using social media as a platform to share God's love by..."

### **Putting It Into Practice**

Before posting, ask yourself:

- Does this reflect Christ?
- Will this build others up?
- Would I want my testimony associated with this content?

### **Reflection Question**

Take a look at your last five social media posts. **What message do they communicate** about your faith and values? How might a non-believer interpret your online presence?

### **Practical Tip**

Create a **"Post Pause Practice"** – wait five minutes before posting anything. During this pause, **review your social media mission statement and pray** about whether the content aligns with your goals for digital ministry.

# Family Discussion: Technology's Role in the Home

### Is Technology Helping or Hurting Your Home?

The Andersons noticed a troubling pattern: family devotion time was shrinking, while screen time was growing. Conversations became brief exchanges between notifications. When their youngest child asked to skip family game night for more screen time, they knew it was time for a serious discussion.

Does this sound familiar? In many Christian homes, technology is both a blessing and a challenge. The question isn't whether to use technology—but how to use it wisely.

Psalm 101:3 reminds us: "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes."

This verse encourages us to evaluate what we allow into our homes—not just through television, but also through phones, social media, and digital entertainment. Setting biblical boundaries with love ensures that technology serves our families rather than distracts us from what matters most.

### Step 1: Assess Your Family's Current Digital Habits

Begin the conversation by honestly evaluating how technology is shaping your home. Gather as a family and reflect on these questions:

- When does technology bring us closer together?
- When does it create distance or distraction?
- How is our current screen time affecting our walk with God?

Encourage open dialogue. This is not about blame or guilt—it's about aligning your family's tech habits with your faith values.

### Step 2: Envision Better Habits Together

Instead of simply removing screens, shift the conversation toward what you want more of as a family. Ask your children:

- What activities do you wish we did more often as a family?
- How can technology be used to strengthen our faith?
- What boundaries would help us grow closer?

Shaping your family's digital habits together ensures that everyone feels heard and invested in the process.

# **Creating Your Family's Digital Covenant**

Once you've assessed your habits and envisioned positive changes, work together to create a Digital Covenant—a set of guiding principles for technology use in your home.

### **Consider Setting These Boundaries:**

• **Device-Free Dinner Times** – Prioritize meaningful conversations without digital distractions.

- No Screens During Family Devotions Keep your focus on God's Word without competing notifications.
- **Technology Curfews –** Set a time when devices are put away to encourage rest and reflection.
- Weekly Digital Sabbaths Dedicate one day or evening a week to screen-free activities.

A family covenant isn't just about restrictions—it's about freedom. By setting limits, you create space for real connection and spiritual growth.

### **Reflection Question**

What moments of genuine connection has your family missed due to digital distractions? How can you reclaim these opportunities?

### Practical Tip: The "Tech Trade-Up Box"

Create a Tech Trade-Up Box where family members (including parents!) place their devices during designated tech-free times. Replace screen time with interactive activities that strengthen relationships and faith—board games, storytelling, or prayer time.

### **Final Thoughts**

Technology should never replace the deep, meaningful discipleship that happens within the home. By having honest conversations, setting clear boundaries, and leading by example, your family can reclaim time for faith, connection, and purpose.

# A Family Technology Plan: A Modern-Day Joshua Declaration

### Choosing to Serve God—Even in Our Digital Lives

One evening, Mark stood in his living room, watching a familiar scene unfold. His son was immersed in a video game, his daughter scrolled social media, and his wife caught up on emails. A conviction stirred in his heart as he remembered Joshua 24:15:

"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

At that moment, Mark realized his family needed a clear declaration for their digital lives—one that ensured technology served their faith, rather than competing with it.

# **Making Your Digital Declaration**

Just as Joshua called the Israelites to choose whom they would serve, families today must decide how technology will be used in their home. This isn't about rejecting modern tools, but intentionally shaping how they impact our faith and relationships.

A Family Technology Plan is more than just rules—it's a shared commitment to use digital tools in a way that honors God.

# Step 1: Building Your Family Technology Plan

### **Sacred Spaces and Times**

In Scripture, God instructed the Israelites to set apart holy times and places for worship. Similarly, families can designate tech-free zones to protect faith, rest, and relationships.

### Consider these boundaries:

- Device-Free Dinner Tables Deepen family conversations without digital distractions.
- No Screens in Bedrooms Encourage rest, prayer, and quiet reflection.
- **Dedicated Time for Family Worship** Keep devotion time focused on God's Word, free from notifications.

When screens are removed, genuine connection has room to grow.

# **Step 2: Faith-First Digital Choices**

Rather than simply setting limits, shift the focus to how technology can strengthen your family's faith. Ask:

- What apps or online resources can help us grow spiritually?
- How can we use social media to encourage and uplift others?
- How can we balance entertainment with faith-building content?

Use technology with intention, allowing it to serve your family's discipleship journey.

# **Step 3: Implementing Your Family Plan**

### **Set Clear Commitments**

Gather your family and discuss these key commitments:

- Honor God through our digital choices.
- Protect family relationships from digital distraction.
- Use technology as a tool for ministry and growth.
- Create specific guidelines that fit our unique needs.

Write these down and post them somewhere visible. When challenges arise, return to your family's declaration as a reminder of your shared commitment.

### **Reflection Question**

If Joshua were writing his declaration today, how might he address technology use in his household? What principles from his leadership can guide your family's digital discipleship?

### **Practical Tip: The Digital Declaration Ceremony**

Make this a joyful family event! Read Joshua 24:15 together, discuss your commitments, and formally sign your technology plan. Frame it and display it in a central location—near your main screen or charging station—as a reminder that even your digital life is dedicated to God.

### **Final Thoughts**

Your Family Technology Plan isn't about perfection—it's about progress. As your children grow and technology evolves, you may need to adjust and refine your commitments. What matters most is that your home is guided by faith, wisdom, and intentional choices.

Here is the refined version of "The Digital Family Covenant: Setting Biblical Tech Boundaries."

# The Digital Family Covenant: Setting Biblical Tech Boundaries

Why a Covenant Matters

The Martinez family sat around their kitchen table, pens in hand. They weren't just writing down rules—they were signing a **sacred commitment** to honor God in their technology use.

Twelve-year-old Sofia had suggested the idea after learning about **biblical covenants** in Sunday School. Now, the entire family was embracing this decision together.

A **covenant** is different from a simple list of rules. It is **a commitment from the heart**. Philippians 4:8 gives us a powerful guide for setting biblical tech boundaries:

"Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure... meditate on these things."

This verse challenges families to **filter** their digital choices through God's wisdom.

# Step 1: Creating Your Family's Digital Covenant

Instead of focusing only on **what to avoid**, a covenant should express **why** technology boundaries matter. Rather than saying, "No phones at dinner," the covenant might state:

"We choose to protect our mealtimes as sacred spaces for connection and conversation."

# Step 2: Writing Your Family's Covenant

The Martinez family's covenant included commitments like:

### "We, the Martinez family, commit before God to:"

- Treasure relationship time above screen time.
- Guard our hearts and minds through wise content choices.
- Support each other in developing healthy digital habits.
- Keep technology as a tool, not a master.

Each family's covenant will look different, but the heart of the commitment should be the same: **honoring God in digital choices**.

# Step 3: Making It Work Day by Day

A covenant is only effective if it translates into daily habits. Here's how to bring it to life:

### 1. Set Rhythms Instead of Rigid Limits

Rather than strict screen time rules, think in terms of healthy rhythms:

• Screens go to sleep before people do.

- Saturday mornings are for pancakes and board games—not tablets and TV.
- Family nights are for face-to-face interaction, not side-by-side scrolling.

### 2. Filter Content Through Philippians 4:8

Before watching a show or downloading an app, ask:

- Is this true?
- Is this noble?
- Is this pure?
- Will this help us grow closer to God and each other?

### 3. Establish Weekly Check-Ins

Make it **fun and positive**! Maybe Sunday evenings become **"Digital Direction" time**, where the family shares victories, challenges, and adjustments needed in tech habits.

Celebrate progress, encourage accountability, and keep the covenant **alive** in your home.

### **Reflection Question**

How could a digital covenant bring your family closer to each other and to God? What unique elements would make it meaningful for your household?

### **Practical Tip: Covenant Creation Night**

Turn this into a **creative family event!** Provide art supplies so each family member can **design their portion** of the covenant.

- Younger children might draw pictures of healthy tech habits.
- Teens can write personal commitments to God.
- Once complete, display the covenant in a central place as a daily reminder.

### **Final Thoughts**

A **Digital Family Covenant** isn't about restriction—it's about **freedom**. Freedom to be present, freedom to use technology wisely, and freedom to grow together in faith.

When families intentionally set biblical tech boundaries, they create **a home where Christ—not** screens—remains the center.

# Navigating AI and the Digital Future as Christian Parents

### Should AI Shape Your Child's Faith?

Rachel watched as her daughter asked ChatGPT about prayer. The Al's response was thoughtful, even insightful. But Rachel couldn't shake a concern: **What happens when children turn to Al for wisdom before seeking God?** 

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is **reshaping the way families interact with information, media, and even faith**. Just as the printing press transformed how people accessed Scripture, AI is changing how we **learn, connect, and make decisions**.

But as Proverbs 4:7 reminds us:

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."

Al can provide **information**, but only God provides **wisdom**. As Christian parents, our role is to **equip our children to navigate Al with discernment**—using it as a tool, not a substitute for spiritual guidance.

# Step 1: Understanding Al's Influence on Faith Formation

Al quietly shapes what we see, think, and believe. Here are three key areas where it impacts Christian families:

### 1. Social Media & Al Algorithms

Social media platforms use AI to **curate content** based on what your child watches, likes, or searches. Sometimes, this leads to **faith-based content**. Other times, it may subtly promote **worldly values**.

### Family Conversation Starter:

- "Let's look at what content the algorithm is suggesting to you. How does it align with what we learn in Scripture?"
- "Who are the main voices influencing your feed? Are they pointing you toward or away from God?"

### 2. Al-Generated Content: Who's Behind the Message?

Many blogs, devotionals, and even sermons are now generated by AI. While AI can assist in learning, children need **digital literacy** skills to discern:

- Who (or what) created this content?
- What worldview does it represent?
- How does this compare to biblical truth?

Encourage children to **seek wisdom from Scripture and godly mentors** before trusting Algenerated insights.

### 3. Al as a Tool for Kingdom Purposes

Just as early Christians used **Roman roads** to spread the gospel, today's families can **leverage AI for faith-building**. Some ideas include:

- Using Al-powered Bible study tools for deeper learning
- Creating faith-based content (videos, blogs, or music) to encourage others
- Leveraging AI for ministry (church planning, outreach, or discipleship resources)

Al isn't the enemy—it's a **tool**. The key is **teaching children to use it wisely, with faith and discernment**.

### Step 2: Preparing for the Digital Future with Wisdom

Rather than fearing AI, families should **engage with it intentionally**. Have regular conversations about:

- How AI tools can support (not replace) a relationship with God
- The importance of human connection in spiritual growth
- Ways to use technology to serve others and spread the gospel

### **Reflection Question**

How can your family develop a **balanced approach** to AI that honors God while embracing beneficial innovations? What **boundaries** might you need?

### **Practical Tip: AI Awareness Week**

Challenge your family to track how AI influences your daily lives. Each evening, discuss:

- What AI-powered tools did we use today?
- How did they impact our decisions, entertainment, or spiritual growth?
- How can we ensure AI strengthens—not weakens—our faith?

By **cultivating discernment**, parents can raise **digital disciples** who engage with AI in a way that glorifies God.

### **Final Thoughts**

Al is not a **replacement for God's wisdom, the Bible, or real-life discipleship**. Parents have the **privilege and responsibility** to guide children in making faith-driven tech choices.

By staying **informed**, **intentional**, **and rooted in Scripture**, your family can **embrace technology without compromising faith**.

# A Call to Faithful Technology Use

### Where Is Your Family Headed?

At the beginning of this journey, we met a family sitting at the dinner table—**physically together but digitally divided**. This scene is all too familiar in today's homes.

The good news? It doesn't have to stay this way.

Like the Israelites following the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, modern families need **God's guidance** to navigate the digital world. Technology is always evolving, but biblical wisdom is **unchanging**.

Joshua 24:15 challenges us:

"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Every click, scroll, and screen-time decision is an opportunity to serve God or be shaped by the world.

### **Step 1: Taking the Next Step in Digital Discipleship**

Raising **digital disciples** isn't about **perfection—it's about progression.** Small, intentional choices today lead to **lasting transformation.** 

#### Ask yourself:

- Have we created a Family Technology Plan that honors God?
- Are we using social media as a platform for encouragement and faith-sharing?
- Have we set aside sacred times where technology is put away for real connection?

Technology isn't the enemy-it's a tool. The question is: Who controls it in your home?

# Step 2: Making Small, Consistent Changes

Your **family's digital journey** starts with **simple, intentional choices**. Try implementing one of these:

- Choose one meal each day to be completely device-free.
- Start your mornings with Scripture before checking social media.
- Designate tech-free zones in your home for rest and reflection.

Change doesn't happen overnight, but small steps create big spiritual impact.

### **Reflection Question**

What is **one change** your family can implement this week to make technology **serve your faith rather than compete with it**?

### Practical Tip: Start Small, But Start Today

Pick **one** action from this guide that resonated most with your family. **Commit to it this week.** Remember, **faithful technology use** is built through **daily choices**, **not one-time decisions**.

### A Prayer for Your Family's Digital Journey

"Lord, guide us as we navigate this digital age. Help us use technology in ways that honor You and strengthen our family bonds. Give us wisdom to make choices that draw us closer to You and each other. Amen."

By embracing **intentionality, biblical wisdom, and family unity**, your household can thrive **in the digital age—while keeping Christ at the center.** 

# **Digital Discipleship Printable Resources**

Technology is shaping our families every day—whether we realize it or not. The time to take control of our digital habits is **now**. If we don't set intentional boundaries, technology will shape our children's hearts and minds **before we do**.

As Christian parents, we have the **responsibility and privilege** to ensure that technology serves our faith, not distracts from it. These worksheets will help you create a **faith-centered digital plan**, so your family can use technology **with purpose, wisdom, and biblical guidance**. Don't wait—begin this journey today and reclaim technology as a tool for discipleship, not division.

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# **Family Digital Mission Statement Worksheet**

### **Aligning Technology with Faith**

A mission statement helps your family use technology **with intention** rather than by default. Use this worksheet to create a **clear, faith-based digital mission** for your home.

### Step 1: Identify Your Family's Core Values

List three biblical values that guide your home:

### Step 2: Define Your Technology Purpose

Discuss how technology can help or hinder these values.

- How can technology support our faith?
- What digital habits might challenge our values?

### **Step 3: Draft Your Digital Mission Statement**

Use these prompts to guide your family's statement:

- As a family, we will use technology to ...
- We commit to avoiding...
- We will encourage each other by...

Write your final mission statement and display it where everyone can see it.

## **Social Media Mission Statement Guide**

### Using Social Media to Honor God

Social media can be a powerful tool for **ministry or distraction**. This guide will help you set clear, faith-aligned intentions for your online presence.

### **Personal Reflection Questions**

- What message do I want my social media presence to send?
- How can I use social media to share God's love?
- What types of content align with my faith?

### **Mission Statement Framework**

- 1. Purpose: I will use social media to ...
- 1. Values: My posts will reflect...
- 1. Boundaries: I commit to never...
- 1. **Impact:** I hope to influence others by...

Before posting, ask: **Does this reflect Christ? Will it build others up? Would I want my testimony associated with this content?** 

# Family Technology Discussion Guide

### **Conversations That Shape Digital Habits**

Use this guide to start open, honest discussions about technology's role in your home.

### **Opening Questions**

- What do we love about technology?
- What challenges has it created in our family?
- How can we use it to grow closer to God?

### **Key Discussion Topics**

#### **Screen Time**

- Current habits: \_\_\_\_\_\_
- Desired changes:
- Action steps: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Content Choices**

- Current guidelines: \_\_\_\_\_\_
- New boundaries: \_\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Family Connection**

- Tech-free times: \_\_\_\_\_\_
- Family activities: \_\_\_\_\_\_
- Communication goals: \_\_\_\_\_\_

# Family Technology Plan Template

### **Creating Boundaries That Support Faith**

This plan will help your family establish healthy technology habits based on biblical values.

### **Our Family Tech Values**

1	
2	
3	
Device-Free Zones	
Location 1:	
Location 2:	
Location 3:	
Time Boundaries	
Morning routine:	
Meal times:	
Evening hours:	
Weekend plans:	
Content Guidelines	
Approved content types:	
Content requiring permission:	
Not allowed:	
Family Activities	
Weekly tech-free activities we commit to:	
1	
2.	
3.	

# **Digital Family Covenant Printable**

### A Commitment to Honor God in Technology Use

Your family covenant is a shared commitment to honor God, protect relationships, and use technology with intention.

### **Our Family Digital Covenant**

We, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ family, make this covenant before God on \_\_\_\_\_\_ (date). We commit to:

- 1. Honor God through our digital choices by: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Protect our family relationships by: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Use technology for good by: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Hold each other accountable by: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Family Member Commitments**

Each family member signs their name and adds their personal pledge:

•	Name:
	I commit to:
•	Name:
	I commit to:
•	Name:
	I commit to:
•	Name:
	I commit to:
•	Name:
	I commit to:
•	Name:
	I commit to:
	I commit to:

"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." – Joshua 24:15

### **Final Thoughts**

These resources will help your family stay accountable, set meaningful boundaries, and use technology as a tool for discipleship.

By making small, faith-based adjustments, your household can cultivate a **healthy**, **Christcentered approach to digital life**.

About the Author



**Cindy Seki** is a **Christian digital creator, speaker, and author** dedicated to helping families navigate faith and technology with **biblical wisdom**. As a former homeschool mom with a degree in education and expertise in **digital content strategy**, she combines her passion for discipleship with innovative technology to equip parents in **raising Christ-centered children in an Al-driven world**. Cindy has developed **faith-centered GPTs and QR-accessible resources** to support children and families in their spiritual journey. This guide, co-created with various Al tools, reflects her commitment to embracing technology while maintaining biblical principles. Join the conversation at <u>Digital Discipleship for Christian Parents</u>.