Dear Parents,

Maybe it was a Super Nintendo, Oregon Trail on the school computer, or immersing yourself in episodes of Full House, but our exposure to technology was vastly different from what our children experience. They’re inundated with technology EVERYWHERE they turn. They even have the ability to carry their technology around with them inside their pocket! Does that mean we just hand them an Ipod, unlimited Netflix and YouTube access, and an unmonitored TV and allow them to handle technology however they deem fit? Hint – the answer is NO! This month we want to help you as a parent understand the pros and cons of technology and how to manage it in a way that sets your child up for success.

How do we manage screen time such as TV, movies, video games, etc. with our child, and why should we put parameters around their use of technology? This month’s video is going to tackle these questions, plus more from the home side (TV, movies, video games, etc.).

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/86560654/63bc8c27e1>

Initially we need to address the real question: Do children need boundaries with technology? There are tons of bad things that COULD happen as your child uses his/her mobile device and setting boundaries on those will help protect them. BOUNDARIES GIVE PROTECTION.

In Exodus 16 we read about the Israelites in the wilderness. They’re starving and begin to complain. God miraculously provides manna and quail for them with some boundaries. The instructions are that every person is to collect only what they need for that day. However, there are people that decide they want to collect enough for tomorrow too, and the extra gets infested with maggots! Gross!

Kiddos need boundaries with their mobile devices. We can help provide boundaries a few ways:

1. Limit tech time. Many apps and settings will actually monitor your child’s amount of time on their mobile device. Have your child turn in their device at a certain time every evening so they don’t have access to them/keep them up late at night.
2. Limit content. Unlimited access to the internet greatly increases your child’s chance of stumbling upon inappropriate content. Many apps have safeguards built in that can be set on your child’s mobile device. Surfing the internet via mobile device is a disaster waiting to happen. Take all internet surfing capability OFF of the mobile device OR give them a SAFE browser such as McGruff Safeguard Browser, K9 Protection Browser or AVG Family Safety.
3. Limit apps. BE SMART about apps, they are not all OK. Many parents allow children to have apps like snap chat-which allows easy access to nude pictures, and Kik Messenger-an anonymous texting app. Know the app your child is requesting. You can check out reviews of apps for kids at [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org/) and [iparent.tv](http://iparent.tv/).

In today’s society we must talk with our children about the risks associated with technology. They should know WHY boundaries exist. There are tons of resources out there that provide boundaries for kids’ mobile devices, so take some time to do a little research, and set your child up for technological success!

Building Young Disciples,

Pastor Sarah