



**Educate
+ Engage**



**MEDIA
MATTERS:**



The Internet -
Navigating
the Sea
of Information

OVERVIEW

Today we embark on a journey into the vast sea of information and entertainment known as the internet. In this lesson we explore the potential impact of our online interactions, the importance of discernment in this endless arena, and the role of Christian values in shaping our online presence. We must navigate this digital realm with wisdom, recognizing both the opportunity and responsibility associated with this expansive resource.

The internet, a digital landscape teeming with information, offers benefits as well as challenges. This lesson centers on the need for discernment in the face of a buffet of online content. Wisdom, understanding, and a commitment to Christian values are key to this journey.

Scripture Passage

Proverbs 2:6 (NKJV)

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

I Corinthians 10:12–13 (NKJV)

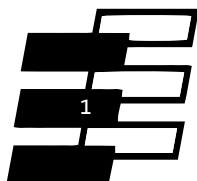
Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

God's Insight: Establishing safeguards and accountability is crucial for maintaining healthy and holy internet habits.

EDUCATE

The Temptation of Online Distractions

The internet, while an enormous source of information, presents countless diversions. These online distractions can be tempting, pulling us away from our responsibilities and intended focus. Let's explore strategies based on Christian values to overcome these potential pitfalls, keeping our minds aligned with knowledge and understanding from the Lord.



Lesson 4

The constant notifications, endless scrolling, and allure of digital entertainment can easily become stumbling blocks in our daily lives. It's crucial to recognize these distractions and employ strategies rooted in biblical principles to navigate the digital landscape with intentionality.

Optional Activity: Reflect individually on a time when online distractions hindered your productivity or focus. Discuss with the group how Christian values, grounded in wisdom and understanding from the Lord, can help combat these distractions and keep our minds centered on what is true and noble.

Discussion Questions: How do online distractions impact your focus and productivity? In what ways can Christian values, rooted in wisdom and understanding from the Lord, help combat online distractions?

Discernment in Navigating Information

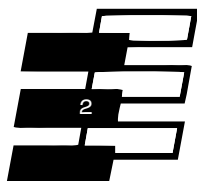
The internet offers a seemingly endless spectrum ranging from valuable insights to misinformation. Discernment is crucial in distinguishing reliable information from falsehood. Consider the biblical call to seek wisdom and understanding from the Lord so you are equipped with discernment that will keep you safe when navigating the sea of material that makes up the internet.

In an era of information overload, honing our discernment skills is akin to setting sail with a reliable compass. We need to navigate the digital waters with a keen eye for credibility and reliability, ensuring the information we take in aligns with our Christian values and principles.

Optional Activity: Engage in a critical thinking activity where each student evaluates an online article or post for credibility. Encourage students to share findings with the class, discussing the importance of discernment, rooted in knowledge and understanding from the Lord, in navigating information. Explore how Christian values guide discernment in the sea of online content.

Discussion Questions: How do you determine the credibility of online information? In what ways can Christian values, grounded in knowledge and understanding from the Lord, guide discernment in navigating the internet?

Shaping a Christian Online Presence



Lesson 4

Our online presence is an extension of who we are. Shaping a godly online presence involves intentional choices in words and actions as well as the content we consume and share. Consider the benefits of having an accountability partner or even downloading accountability software to help you maintain your Christian example. Reflect on how your online code of conduct, rooted in wisdom and understanding from the Lord, can reflect your commitment to Proverbs 2:6 and I Corinthians 10:12–13.

In a world where digital interactions often lack the nuances of face-to-face communication, fostering positive online presence becomes a crucial aspect of how we represent Christ. Shaping an online presence that honors God is not about perfection but about authenticity, humility, and grace.

Optional Activity: Allow time for students to outline ways that their online code of conduct can reflect Christian values, emphasizing wisdom and understanding from the Lord. Discuss as a group how their plans align with biblical principles and contribute to a positive digital presence.

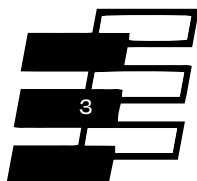
Discussion Questions: What principles might you include in your personal online code of conduct, considering wisdom and understanding from the Lord? How can a Christian online presence, guided by biblical principles and God's faithful escape from temptation, positively impact the digital community?

Closing

Recognizing that our internet choices have lasting consequences, let's ask God to help us navigate this digital realm with trust in Him, relying on His wisdom and understanding, using discernment, and shaping a Christian online presence that reflects the love and respect rooted in His teachings.

ENGAGE

Embark on a digital detox challenge. Commit to a weekend or other specific time frame during which you limit your online activities to essential tasks only. Use this media sabbath for reflection, prayer, and engaging in offline activities that nurture personal growth and well-being. Reflect on how intentional offline moments positively impact your spiritual and mental health and align with wisdom and understanding from the Lord, offering a way of escape from constant digital noise and distractions.



Series Conclusion: Guiding Lights in the Media Maze

Let's take a moment to soak in the key lessons we've uncovered about music, social media, movies/shows, and the internet. These lessons are like trusty guides, helping us navigate the twists and turns of the media landscape.

Media Is a Big Deal, So Let's Be Smart About It

Media—including songs, social media, movies, and the whole internet—is pretty powerful. Digital influences can change the way we see the world and what we believe. So, let's be smart about how we interact with them.

Use These Lessons and God's Word as Your Guides

These lessons are helpful guides in the media maze. Use them like a compass, steering you towards stuff that lifts you up, makes you think, and lines up with Scripture.

It's Not the End; It's a Beginning

This isn't the end of your journey; it's just the beginning. Continue to share your thoughts, chat with your pals, and seek wisdom from the Lord in your media choices. Your trek through the media maze can be a cool adventure with what you have learned from these lessons helping light the way.

Wrap-Up Wisdom

Media is like a toolbox full of stuff that can shape your thoughts and beliefs. So, when you dive into media, do it with intentionality. Let the lessons you've learned in this series be like a map, guiding you toward media choices that make you think, draw you closer to God, lift you up, and fit with godly values.

