

Digital Discipleship



Qualities of a Friend

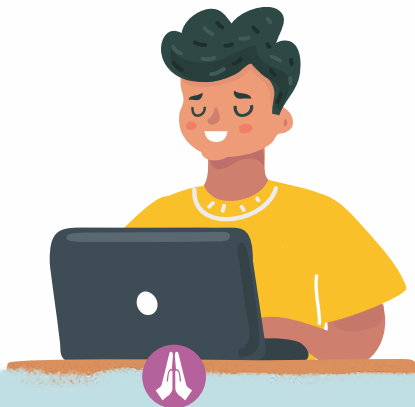
A good friend treats other people with love and compassion. Ask your child what some other characteristics of a good friend are. Encourage your child to nurture friendships with people who shine the love of Jesus into his or her life, whether they are online or offline.

Positive Digital Footprints

Your child can leave a positive digital footprint in his or her online activity by keeping personal information private, using appropriate privacy settings, and following family rules. Talk with your child about your expectations for his or her online behavior and review your family internet safety rules.

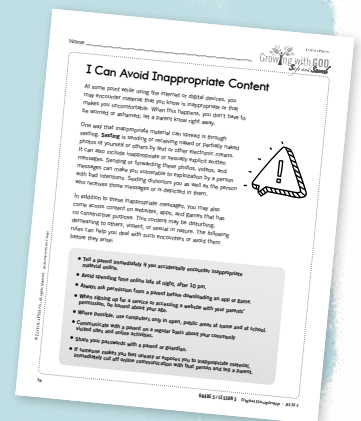
Digital Citizenship

A good digital citizen shows honesty, respect, and compassion online. Point out to your child that we must not underestimate the power we have to affect another life with our words and actions. Imagine together what the world might be like if everyone were to follow the example of Jesus online as well as offline.



Avoiding Inappropriate Content Online

Explain that some people put inappropriate images, videos, and text online. Review the I Can Avoid Inappropriate Content handout with your child and answer any questions he or she may have. Tell your child to alert you immediately if he or she receives inappropriate content from others in text messages or online interactions or if he or she encounters disturbing content on websites, apps, or games. Together, pray to God for discernment and protection as you navigate digital technology.

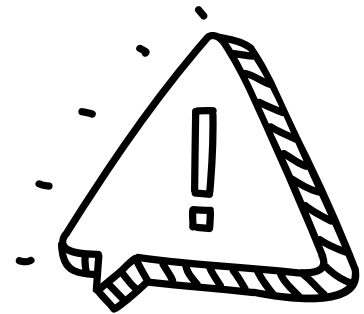


Name _____

I Can Avoid Inappropriate Content

At some point while using the internet or digital devices, you may encounter material that you know is inappropriate or that makes you uncomfortable. When this happens, you don't have to be worried or ashamed; let a parent know right away.

One way that inappropriate material can spread is through sexting. **Sexting** is sending or receiving naked or partially naked photos of yourself or others by text or other electronic means. It can also include inappropriate or sexually explicit written messages. Sending or forwarding these photos, videos, and messages can make you vulnerable to exploitation by a person with bad intentions. Sexting dishonors you as well as the person who receives those messages or is depicted in them.



In addition to these inappropriate messages, you may also come across content on websites, apps, and games that has no constructive purpose. This content may be disturbing, demeaning to others, violent, or sexual in nature. The following rules can help you deal with such encounters or avoid them before they arise:

- **Tell a parent immediately if you accidentally encounter inappropriate material online.**
- **Avoid spending time online late at night, after 10 pm.**
- **Always ask permission from a parent before downloading an app or game.**
- **When signing up for a service or accessing a website with your parents' permission, be honest about your age.**
- **Where possible, use computers only in open, public areas at home and at school.**
- **Communicate with a parent on a regular basis about your commonly visited sites and online activities.**
- **Share your passwords with a parent or guardian.**
- **If someone makes you feel uneasy or exposes you to inappropriate material, immediately cut off online communication with that person and tell a parent.**