

Use AI with Wisdom

For teens ages 12–14 · about 45–60 minutes · Moral Issues for Teens · Media & Technology · game
Tool or Trap? · built on Romans 12:2, Genesis 1:27, and 1 Corinthians 6:12

Artificial intelligence is already in your pocket — search suggestions, feeds, voice assistants, homework helpers, filters, and games. AI is not science fiction anymore; it is the air many students breathe online. The word *artificial* matters: machines mimic intelligence; they do not possess a soul, conscience, or relationship with God. This session is not anti-technology. It is pro-discernment: receive AI as a tool where it helps, refuse it as a trap where it manipulates, replaces real people, or feeds the ancient lie that we can be as gods.

Before you teach anything, pray.

Some students think AI is either magic or evil; some already use it to cheat and feel trapped. Ask the Spirit for clarity without fear-mongering — wisdom that leads to boundaries, honesty, and real community. You are teaching what Scripture says about being human in a machine age.

The heart of the lesson

Approach AI like any other technology: a gift that can enhance learning and the common good, yet capable of going off the rails in a fallen world. Narrow AI performs specific tasks — maps, medical scans, research help. The bigger temptation is broader: trusting algorithms to form your mind, replacing human friendship with chatbots, cheating with generated essays, or chasing transhuman dreams that echo Genesis 3:5 — *you shall be as gods*. Humans alone bear God's image (Gen. 1:26–27). Psalm 139:13–14 celebrates life knit by God; Ecclesiastes 12:7 says the spirit returns to God who gave it. No machine receives that.

AI is artificial — don't let the machine master you or replace real people.

Misguided approaches to avoid: praising efficiency while skipping moral questions; treating AI sympathy as real friendship (Heb. 10:24–25); letting AI-driven feeds shorten attention and normalize darkness; using AI to cheat or cover up dishonest work; isolating into virtual worlds (Prov. 18:1). When abused, AI brings problems like venom — manipulation, bias, job disruption,

dehumanization, and spiritual pride. Christians are called to be living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1), self-controlled (1 Cor. 6:12), temples of the Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19–20), and sober-minded (1 Thess. 5:6; Titus 2:12).

Would Jesus thank you for how you used AI today — or ask you to repent?

ROMANS 12:2

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God..."

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12

"I will not be dominated by anything... All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful."

How the session flows

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| 1 | Name the machine. What AI is — and what it is not. | ~8 min |
| 2 | Teach tool vs. trap. Image of God, mastery, community, honesty. | ~12 min |
| 3 | Play the game. "Tool or Trap?" on screen. | ~12–15 min |
| 4 | Quiet honesty. Reference card, private reflection. | ~5 min |
| 5 | Worksheet. In class or take-home practice. | ~15 min |
| 6 | Close with discernment. Prayer and one AI boundary for the week. | ~8 min |

Screen for the game, printed cards and worksheets, pens. You do not need to demo every app — teach filters that work on ChatGPT, school tools, social feeds, or whatever arrives next year.

Leading it, part by part

Name the machine

Ask: where did you interact with AI this week — search, homework, social feed, voice assistant, game? Let them answer without turning it into a tech audit. Land this: AI performs tasks it was programmed to do. It is not a person, pastor, or conscience. The label *artificial* is honest.

Teach tool vs. trap

Walk through five filters. **Image of God:** Gen. 1:26–27; Ps. 139 — humans are not machines; souls belong to God. **Mastery:** 1 Cor. 6:12; Rom. 12:1 — tools must not dominate you. **Real community:** Heb. 10:24–25; 1 John 4:7–12 — stir one another up; chatbots cannot replace church, family, or flesh-and-blood friends. **Honesty and purpose:** 1 Cor. 10:31; James 1:5 — do all for God's glory; ask God for wisdom; cheating is a trap. **Spiritual vigilance:** Gen. 3:5; 1 Pet. 5:8; Prov. 4:23 — guard heart and mind from manipulation, isolation, and the pride of playing God through technology.

Teach hope: AI can help research, navigation, accessibility, and even spread truth when used ethically. Students can influence the future by choosing honesty, limits, and real relationships now.

Play the game

Run "Tool or Trap?" twelve to fifteen minutes. Round 1 sorts habits; Round 2 anchors Bible truth about humans and machines; Round 3 tackles cheating, loneliness, and feeds; Round 4 drills key verses. Bridge afterward: points are fun; a renewed mind is the win.

Quiet honesty

Hand out the reference card. Promise plainly that nobody is collecting it. Give five quiet minutes for students to name one AI habit they would change if Jesus reviewed their screen time and honesty — without saying it aloud to the room. Protect the silence.

Worksheet

Reinforce Genesis 1:27, Romans 12:2, and 1 Corinthians 6:12; T/F on souls and cheating; one boundary for the week.

Close with discernment

Invite each student to pick one tool habit (ask parents before using AI on schoolwork, limit feed time) and cut one trap (cheating shortcut, chatbot as therapist, endless algorithmic scrolling). Pray

for students tempted to isolate. Offer leaders for students who feel owned by screens or ashamed of cheating.

Take it further

- What makes humans different from machines? (Gen. 1:26–27)
- How does Psalm 139:13–14 contrast God's creation with artificial systems?
- How should Romans 12:1–2 shape thinking in an AI-shaped world?
- How can technology be used for good? (1 Cor. 10:31)
- Why guard your heart with AI-driven media? (Prov. 4:23)
- How does Genesis 3:5 connect to "be as gods" through technology?
- Why stay spiritually alert when algorithms manipulate emotion? (1 Pet. 5:8)
- Why not replace real relationships with AI? (Heb. 10:24–25)
- What does self-control look like on AI platforms? (Gal. 5:22–23)
- How can Christians be salt and light in AI's future? (Matt. 5:14–16)

A final word

Teens will live with smarter machines than their parents imagined. Give them courage to enjoy tools without worshiping them, and to choose people over programs. The goal is not fear — it is faithfulness. When they learn tool vs. trap, they can use AI without being used by it.