



Small Group Study Guide for September 9, 2018

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: As we discuss how to put technology in its proper place, we seek to put God first and foremost in our lives and let Him direct our priorities and attention, using all our possessions to glorify God and help us live as His redeemed and sent servants.

Reading: This week we look at the Preface and Introduction to the Tech-Wise Family book.

Getting Started:

1. What changes in technology have you seen in your lifetime?
2. What are some of the blessings that technology has brought to our lives?
3. What are some of the challenges and negative things that technology has brought us?

The Tech Wise Family

4. On page 19, in the top paragraph, the author says that “one thing our children need to hear from us, over and over again is ‘Our family is different.’” Later in the introduction, on pages 28 – 29, he states that Christians need to become almost almost Amish in order to do life differently. Just because “everybody’s doing it” doesn’t mean Christians just go along with the flow of society or the path of the world. What are some areas in your life where you feel like you are doing life differently than the rest of the world because of your faith? Where might you or your family be just a little “Amish” – that is, counter cultural?
5. On pages 32-33, it talks about how technology has become masters of “the nudge.” Nudges are promptings that coerce or elicit a response from you. Sometimes they can be good (like when the timer goes off to take a cake out of the oven). But many times we don’t realize how many nudges we receive during the day? What things “nudge” you throughout your day or your week (either technology devices or other things/people that nudge) and how do you try to manage your response to all of them?
6. Read aloud again the two paragraphs at the bottom of page 37, that start with “The most powerful choices we make...” and “If we want a better life...” and discuss what the author is trying to say here.

In the Word: Matthew 6:25-27, 31-34

7. What are some of the worldly or material things that people “run after” these days?
8. How does our constant running after material things, the latest and greatest stuff and technology, bring considerable amounts of worry into our lives?
9. Where does Jesus say we should place the Kingdom of God among our priorities in life? (vs. 33)
10. What are some of the ways we put God’s Kingdom first in our lives?
11. If we want to put Good Works and Faith in their proper place, then we need to remember that our salvation is not dependent upon our works, or how well we follow God’s law. Our salvation rests on faith alone, that Jesus has done the work for us, and has done everything perfectly in our place. How does this understanding of Law and Gospel help us discuss the role of technology and our priorities with an attitude of grace, patience, and understanding? How does it help us avoid “legalism”?

Prayer: Ask God to help each of us to grow in wisdom, courage, and faith as we seek first the Kingdom of God. Pray that God would help us grow in our relationship with Him as we discuss the role of technology in our world and our homes. Pray for parents and children especially who are struggling in these areas, and that the Holy Spirit would bring enlightenment, grace, truth, and peace.

Next Week: The sermon topic will be “Wisdom from Above” and address the topic of wisdom in the Bible – how we get it, where it comes from, and how it is different than the wisdom of this world. The small group study guide will focus on that and on Chapter 1 of the book “Choosing Character.” A reading schedule for the Spiritual Growth Campaign is as follows:

Sept 9 – Preface & Introduction

Sept 16 – Chapter 1

Sept 23 – Chapters 2 & 3

Sept 30 – Chapters 4 & 5

Oct 7 – Chapters 6, 7, 8

Oct 14 – Chapters 9 & 10