



RESOURCE PACK: FAITH, AI, AND THE NATURAL WORLD

This Resource Pack contains:

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INTRODUCTORY ARTICLE

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming almost every sector of human society, but its impact stretches far beyond the digital realm. As AI systems become more deeply integrated into global infrastructure, they are altering the physical planet in profound ways. For the natural world, AI represents a dual-edged sword—offering revolutionary tools for ecological conservation while simultaneously placing unprecedented strain on Earth's energy and water resources.

For people of faith, particularly Christians, this technological shift invites deep theological reflection. Scripture provides a framework for evaluating how tools like AI should be used in relation to the environment, centring on themes of stewardship, creation care, and human limits.

The Ecological Benefits of AI: A Tool for Conservation

AI has become an invaluable asset for environmental scientists, ecologists, and conservationists, enabling data processing and analysis at a scale previously impossible.

- **Precision Conservation and Wildlife Tracking:** Traditional wildlife monitoring relies on manual data collection, which is slow and labour-intensive. AI-powered software can process thousands of hours of audio recordings from dense forests or millions of images from camera traps in seconds. These systems identify specific animal species, track migration patterns, and flag changes in population health. This real-time data allows conservationists to deploy anti-poaching units or protect critical habitats before damage occurs.
- **Climate Modelling and Environmental Forecasting:** Understanding climate change requires analysing incredibly complex global climate systems. AI excels at finding patterns within massive datasets. It helps meteorologists and climate scientists build highly accurate predictive models, forecasting extreme weather events, sea-level rises, and shifts in agricultural zones. These insights allow communities to build resilience and adapt to changing environments more effectively.
- **Combatting Illegal Deforestation and Fishing:** AI is being used alongside satellite imagery to detect illegal logging in places like the Amazon rainforest. Algorithms can identify the sounds of chainsaws or trucks through acoustic monitoring networks and alert local authorities. Similarly, AI tracks maritime data to spot illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing vessels in protected marine areas.
- **Optimising Clean Energy and Smart Agriculture:** In agriculture, AI-driven "smart farming" uses sensors and drone imagery to analyse soil health and crop needs. This allows farmers to apply water, fertilisers, and pesticides with extreme precision, drastically reducing chemical runoff into nearby ecosystems. Furthermore, AI optimises renewable energy grids by predicting wind and solar patterns, ensuring that clean energy is stored and distributed efficiently.

The Ecological Costs of AI: Carbon, Water, and Waste

While AI offers sophisticated solutions to environmental problems, the physical infrastructure required to sustain it poses a severe threat to the natural world.

- **Massive Energy Consumption and Carbon Emissions:** AI models, particularly large language models (LLMs), require immense computational power. Training a single large-scale AI model can emit as much carbon as multiple lifetimes of an average passenger vehicle. Once trained, running millions of

daily user queries requires vast networks of data centres that operate continuously. As tech companies expand their AI capabilities, their overall electricity demands soar, often outstripping the growth of renewable energy grids and forcing a continued reliance on fossil fuels.

- **Extensive Water Usage for Cooling:** Data centres generate incredible amounts of heat. To keep thousands of servers from overheating, facilities rely heavily on water-cooling systems. Millions of litres of water are evaporated daily at individual data centres, often sourced from local municipal supplies or underground aquifers. In regions already facing droughts and water scarcity, the high water footprint of AI infrastructure places a direct strain on local aquatic ecosystems and human communities.
- **Resource Extraction and E-Waste:** The hardware that powers AI—specialised graphic processing units (GPUs) and microchips—relies on the extraction of rare earth elements and precious metals, such as lithium, cobalt, and copper. Mining these materials often leads to widespread habitat destruction, soil erosion, and water pollution in vulnerable ecosystems. Furthermore, because AI technology advances at a breakneck pace, older hardware quickly becomes obsolete, contributing to the global crisis of toxic electronic waste (e-waste).

A Christian Appraisal: Stewardship, Greed, and Creation Care

To evaluate AI's impact on the natural world through a Christian lens, believers must look to biblical principles regarding creation, humanity's role on Earth, and the dangers of unbridled technological pride.

1. The Mandate of Creation Care (Genesis 1 & 2)

The foundation of a Christian environmental ethic begins in Genesis. Scripture asserts that "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). Human beings were not given absolute ownership of the planet, but rather a mandate to "work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15). This role is one of stewardship, not exploitation.

From this perspective, AI can be appraised as a powerful tool to fulfil this creation care mandate. If AI can help restore degraded landscapes, protect endangered species, and reduce agricultural waste, its application aligns closely with the biblical call to tend God's creation. Using technology to heal the earth is a legitimate expression of human creativity used for the common good.

2. The Warning Against Technocentric Idolatry (Genesis 11)

Conversely, the Bible consistently warns against human arrogance and the belief that technology can solve all existential problems independently of God. The story of

the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) serves as a classic critique of human ambition aimed at self-glorification through engineering.

If society views AI as a saviour that will magically fix the climate crisis without requiring humanity to address deeper issues of greed, overconsumption, and waste, it becomes a form of idolatry. Christians must reject the narrative that technological progress justifies environmental destruction. Overheating the planet and depleting freshwater resources to build faster, more powerful AI models contradicts the biblical command to honour the Creator by respecting the limits of His creation.

3. Contentment vs. Endless Growth (Luke 12)

The resource-heavy nature of AI is largely driven by a global economic model focused on infinite growth and convenience. In the Gospels, Jesus frequently warns against greed and the accumulation of excess (Luke 12:15).

A biblical appraisal of AI must ask searching questions about *why* certain AI systems are being developed. If an AI tool burns massive amounts of energy simply to optimise targeted advertising or fuel addictive consumer behaviours, it drives ecological degradation for the sake of material gain. Christians are called to advocate for restraint, pushing for tech development that prioritises energy efficiency, resource conservation, and the preservation of the natural world over reckless expansion.

Striking a Faithful Balance

Ultimately, AI is a tool, and its moral value is determined by how it is designed, deployed, and regulated. For the natural world, it holds the potential to be both a great protector and a significant polluter.

Christians can approach AI with a blend of hope and sobre critique. By supporting AI applications that protect ecosystems and demanding transparency regarding the energy and water costs of technology companies, believers can help ensure that digital innovation does not come at the expense of God's physical creation. The path forward requires using human ingenuity not to master or deplete the earth, but to care for it faithfully.

The Bottom Line

In this solemn time, let us reflect on our current realities and share the great news that, unlike machines, humans are unique by creation in the image of God and by redemption through the life and death of Jesus Christ. We are living beings, not mechanical devices.

Satan told Eve, in Eden, "You will be like God" (Genesis 3:5, NKJV). It was a lie then and it is a lie now. Our hope is not in AI and certainly not in transhumanist fantasies,

which teach that we can all but become gods. Our only hope exists in the Lord who made the heavens and the earth.

THEOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS AND ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Integrating theological arguments with ethical guidelines allows Christians and tech leaders to move beyond abstract theory into practical action. By grounding technical development in biblical truths, a framework emerges that protects the natural world while responsibly utilising technological innovation.

Deepening the Theological Arguments

A robust Christian response to AI's ecological impact relies on several foundational doctrines that challenge the modern tech industry's underlying assumptions.

1. The Principle of Instrumental Value vs. Intrinsic Worth

Modern technological expansion often treats nature as a mere repository of raw materials—lithium to be mined, water to be evaporated for cooling, and air to absorb carbon.

Theologically, this violates the biblical view of creation's intrinsic worth. In **Genesis 1**, God pronounces creation "good" before human beings are even created. **Psalms 148** describes wild animals, oceans, and weather patterns praising God simply by existing.

- **The Theological Argument:** Creation does not exist solely to serve human digital convenience. A Christian worldview insists that ecosystems have value to God independent of their utility to human industry. Therefore, damaging a watershed or accelerating climate change to train an algorithmic model is a failure to respect what God has sanctified.

2. Cosmic Redemption and the Scope of the Gospel

A narrow view of the Christian gospel focuses entirely on the salvation of human souls. However, the New Testament presents a much larger vision of redemption that encompasses the physical universe.

In **Colossians 1:20**, Paul writes that through Christ, God chose to "reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven." Furthermore, **Romans 8:21** states that "creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay."

- **The Theological Argument:** If Christ's redemptive work includes the restoration of the physical earth, then human activities should align with that restoration. Developing technologies that actively degrade habitats or deplete resources runs counter to the direction of God's cosmic renewal. Christians

are called to be agents of reconciliation, which includes reconciling human industry with the health of the planet.

3. Covenantal Responsibility to Future Generations

The biblical concept of covenant is inherently multi-generational. When God establishes a covenant, it frequently extends to "you and your descendants after you" (**Genesis 9:9**).

The rapid, short-term extraction of minerals and high-volume carbon output required by modern AI architectures prioritise immediate corporate profits over long-term planetary stability.

- **The Theological Argument:** Exploiting finite resources for short-term technological dominance is a form of generational theft. Christian ethics requires an intergenerational outlook, ensuring that our current digital advancements do not leave future generations with a depleted, toxic, and unliveable world.

Practical Ethical Guidelines for AI Development

To translate these theological arguments into the secular and corporate spheres, tech companies, policymakers, and Christian engineers can advocate for specific, actionable ethical boundaries.

1. The Guideline of Ecological Proportionality

Tech companies often deploy massive, energy-intensive AI models for trivial tasks where simpler, more efficient algorithms would suffice.

- **Actionable Rule:** Before an AI model is trained or deployed, developers must conduct an **Ecological Impact Assessment**. The environmental cost (carbon footprint, water usage) must be strictly proportional to the human or ecological benefit. If an AI system consumes millions of gallons of water simply to optimise targeted advertising or generate hyper-realistic deepfakes, its development should be halted or redesigned.

2. Mandated "Green Training" and Infrastructure Transparency

The tech sector frequently masks its physical footprint behind the abstract concept of "the cloud." True stewardship requires radical transparency.

- **Actionable Rule:** AI providers must provide **real-time resource metrics** to users, showing the exact carbon and water cost per query or training run. Furthermore, tech firms must commit to a "Grid-First" policy—meaning large-scale AI training should only occur in data centres powered by 100%

local, additionally built renewable energy, rather than draining existing green energy grids away from local communities.

3. Circular Lifecycle Design and E-Waste Accountability

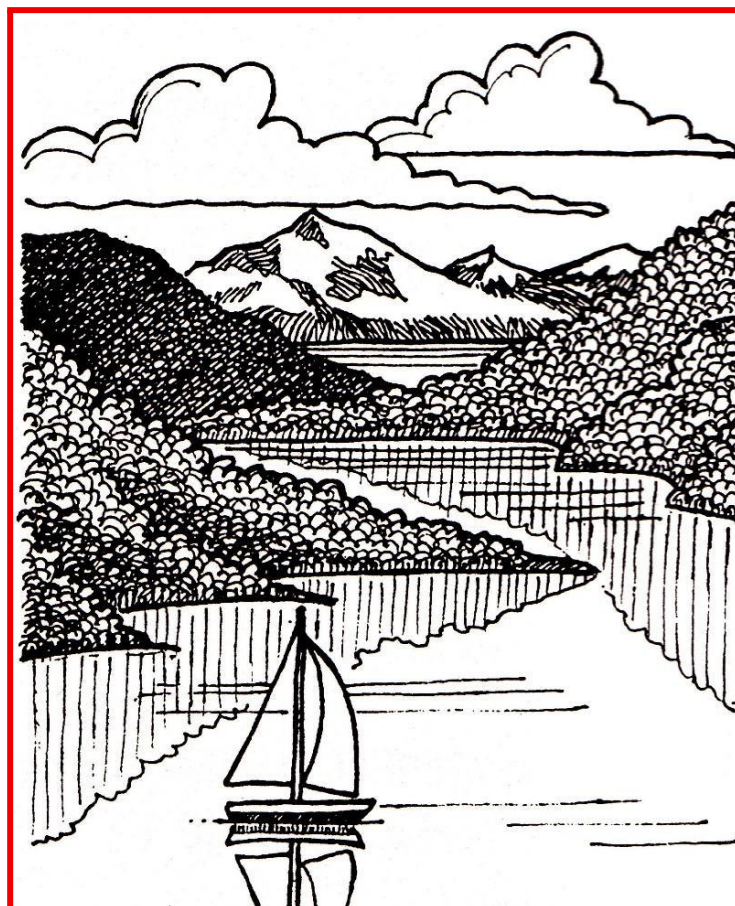
The hardware driving AI is treated as disposable, leading to destructive mining practices and toxic e-waste dumps in developing nations.

- **Actionable Rule:** Hardware manufacturers must adopt a **closed-loop circular economy model**. Companies must design GPUs and servers for easy modular upgrades, repairability, and safe recycling. Tech corporations must take full financial and logistical responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their hardware, ensuring that the heavy metals mined for AI do not end up poisoning ecosystems at the end of their utility.

4. Prioritisation of "Earth-First" AI Initiatives

Technology should be intentionally directed toward systemic healing rather than just commercial gain.

- **Actionable Rule:** Venture capital, corporate research budgets, and government grants should explicitly incentivise **AI for Earth** initiatives. Instead of focusing heavily on consumer automation, the industry should prioritise funding AI systems designed to map biodiversity loss, optimise localised renewable energy grids, predict ecological tipping points, and clean up microplastics.



SMALL GROUP STUDY SERIES: FAITH, AI, AND THE NATURAL WORLD

This four-session guide equips leaders and participants to explore the intersection of technology, faith, and creation care.

Promotional Text for Church Bulletins & Newsletters

Copy and paste these snippets directly into your church communication platforms.

Short Bulletin Blurb (75 words)

New Small Group Series: Faith, AI, and the Natural World

Does the digital world harm the physical world? Join us for a new four-week study exploring the surprising environmental impact of artificial intelligence through a biblical lens. We will look at what Scripture says about creation care, digital stewardship, and how we can use modern tools faithfully without compromising God's earth. Groups start next week! Register at the info desk or online.

Full Newsletter / Email Copy (250 words)

Subject: Where Does the Cloud Meet the Dirt? Joining our New Study Series

Dear Church Family,

We often talk about technology as if it exists purely in the air—stored safely away in a weightless place we call "the cloud." But as artificial intelligence integrates deeper into our daily tasks, its physical footprint on our planet is growing rapidly. From the vast amounts of electricity needed to run AI server farms to the millions of litres of water evaporated daily to keep them cool, our digital convenience relies heavily on God's physical creation.

How should we as Christians respond to this shifting landscape?

Starting on **[Insert Date]**, we are launching a new four-week small group series called **Faith, AI, and the Natural World**. Together, we will examine the dual nature of AI: how it serves as a groundbreaking tool for wildlife conservation and climate modelling, alongside the hidden ecological costs of running these massive systems.

Most importantly, we will ground our discovery in Scripture. Looking at passages from Genesis, Luke, and Colossians, we will tackle vital questions:

- What does the biblical call to "tend and keep the garden" look like in a digital age?
- How do we guard against treating human technology as a modern-day Tower of Babel?
- What practical ethical guidelines can we champion as faithful tech consumers and creators?

Whether you are a tech professional, a student, or simply someone who uses a smartphone, this series will give you a fresh perspective on how to honour the Creator in a digital world.

Sign up for a group today via the church app or by replying directly to this email.

Blessings,

[Insert Name/Church Leadership Team]

10-Minute Promotional Talk: "The Physical Footprint of a Digital World"

Scripture Reference: Psalm 24:1 & Genesis 2:15

Target Audience: Church Congregation / Combined Youth & Adult Small Groups

(Leader Note: Consider holding up a smartphone at the beginning of this talk as a visual anchor.)

"Look at this device in my hand. Most of us have one in our pockets or bags right now. Over the last couple of years, this little piece of metal and glass has undergone a quiet revolution. We've entered the age of Artificial Intelligence. With a few taps, we can ask an AI to write an essay, design a logo, plan a holiday, or draft a business strategy. It feels magical. It feels weightless. We talk about sending data to 'the cloud', a term that evokes images of fluffy, floating, completely harmless vapour.

But the Bible tells us a fundamental truth in **Psalm 24:1**: *'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.'* God didn't just make our souls; He made matter. He made dirt, rivers, trees, and atmosphere. And when we look closely at this new digital frontier through the lens of Scripture, we discover something startling: the cloud isn't weightless at all. It is deeply, intensely physical.

Every single time you type a prompt into an AI generator, you are triggering a physical chain reaction. Your request travels to a massive data centre—a building the size of a football stadium packed with thousands of roaring computer servers. To keep those servers from melting down, they require millions of litres of fresh water

pumped out of local aquifers every single day. To power them, they draw immense amounts of electricity, often forcing power grids to burn more coal and gas. The materials inside these phones and servers—lithium, cobalt, copper—are ripped out of the earth in mines that often devastate local ecosystems.

As Christians, we cannot afford to separate our digital lives from our theological responsibility. In **Genesis 2:15**, God placed humanity in the garden to '*work it and take care of it.*' We are called to be caretakers, stewards of God's physical artwork.

This means AI leaves us with a profound choice.

On one hand, AI can be an incredible tool for stewardship. Right now, scientists are using AI to listen to the sounds of the Amazon rainforest, detecting the faint buzz of an illegal chainsaw miles away so rangers can stop poachers. They are using AI to track endangered species and design more efficient solar panels. This is human ingenuity at its best, fulfilling the call to tend the garden.

But on the other hand, if we use AI carelessly—simply to fuel our obsession with endless consumer convenience, without any regard for the water it drinks or the carbon it breathes—we run the risk of building a modern-day Tower of Babel. We fall into the trap of believing that human technology is our ultimate saviour, and that we can out-engineer the consequences of our own greed.

Over the next four weeks, our small groups are going to pause and look behind the screen. We are going to ask hard questions: How do we innovate faithfully? How do we set ethical boundaries for our tech? How do we use these incredible modern tools to heal God's creation rather than exploit it?

Let's pray as we begin this journey together, asking God to give us wisdom for the digital age, and a deeper love for His physical world."

Small Group Leader Guide & Discussion Prompts

This section provides specific instructions, icebreakers, and troubleshooting tips for the small group facilitator to review during preparation.

Facilitator Preparation Blueprint

- **The Tension:** Be prepared for participants to fall into two extremes: **Technological Optimism** (believing AI will fix everything without us changing our behaviour) or **Technological Cynicism** (believing all advanced tech is evil or a sign of the end times). Your goal is to steer them toward **Faithful Discernment**.
- **Environmental Empathy:** Some participants may feel overwhelmed or guilty about their ecological footprint. Remind the group that the gospel offers grace

and invites us into joyful cooperation with God, not a lifestyle of shame-based environmentalism.

Session 1 Leader Prep: The Mandate of Creation Care

- **Icebreaker:** If you could instantly train an AI to automate one boring chore in your house, what would it be?
- **Troubleshooting Point:** If someone argues that "Genesis says we have dominion over the earth, so we can use its resources however we want," pivot by asking: *"What kind of King is Jesus? Does His dominion look like exploitation or sacrificial care?"* Remind them that biblical dominion means ruling the way God rules—with love, protection, and justice.

Session 2 Leader Prep: The Hidden Cost of the Cloud

- **Icebreaker:** Take a guess—how many unread emails or digital photos do you currently have stored on your phone or computer?
- **Troubleshooting Point:** If the group gets bogged down in guilt about using technology, redirect the conversation: *"The goal isn't to stop using AI or phones entirely. The goal is awareness. How does knowing that 'the cloud' uses physical water and electricity change the value we place on the tools we use?"*

Session 3 Leader Prep: Technocentric Idolatry vs. True Contentment

- **Icebreaker:** What is a piece of technology you bought because you thought it would completely change your life, but it ended up sitting in a closet?
- **Troubleshooting Point:** If the conversation shifts into political debates about climate change, steer it back to heart postures: *"Regardless of politics, how does a constant cultural drive for 'more, faster, and more convenient' impact our ability to practice biblical contentment?"*

Session 4 Leader Prep: Faithful Innovation and Ethical Guidelines

- **Icebreaker:** If you were given a multi-million-dollar grant to build any tech tool to help your local community or environment, what would you design?
 - **Troubleshooting Point:** For group members who don't work in the tech industry, these guidelines can feel abstract. Remind them: *"We are all tech consumers. We vote with our wallets, our attention, and our voices. How can we use our consumer choices to support ethical, transparent design?"*
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OUTLINE OF THE FOUR GROUP SESSIONS

Session 1: The Mandate of Creation Care

Focus: Understanding our role as caretakers of the earth and evaluating AI as a tool for stewardship.

Youth Ministry Object Lesson: The Multiplier Tool

- **The Setup:** Bring a heavy hammer or a complex multi-tool to the group. Ask a volunteer to unscrew a tight screw using only their fingernail, then hand them the tool.
- **The Point:** Tools are not inherently good or bad; they amplify human intent. AI is the ultimate amplifier. If our intent is to exploit the earth for quick cash, AI will help us do it faster. If our intent is to care for creation, AI gives us unprecedented power to do so.

Scripture Reading

- **Genesis 2:15:** "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."
- **Psalms 24:1:** "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

Discussion Questions

1. When you think of "creation care," do you usually think about technology, or do you view them as opposites? Why?
2. AI is currently used to track endangered species, predict extreme weather, and catch illegal loggers. How does using technology in this way fulfil the biblical mandate to "work and take care of" the earth?
3. If "the earth is the Lord's," how should that truth change the way tech companies view natural resources like water and rare earth minerals?

Leader Notes & Talking Points

- **Core Concept:** Human beings are stewards, not owners. The Hebrew words *abad* (to work/serve) and *shamar* (to keep/guard) in Genesis 2:15 imply a protective, serving relationship to the land.
- **Talking Point:** AI data processing is a form of modern "tending." For example, acoustic AI can listen to thousands of hours of rainforest audio to pinpoint poaching patterns. This is a legitimate expression of the cultural mandate to use human intelligence to safeguard God's artwork.

Action Step

Research one way AI is currently used for environmental conservation (e.g., smart agriculture or wildlife tracking) and share it with the group next week.

Session 2: The Hidden Cost of the Cloud

Focus: Confronting the environmental toll of AI infrastructure and the biblical warning against greed.

Youth Ministry Activity: The Water & Wattage Race

- **The Setup:** Give youth a smartphone and ask them to look up an AI image generator. Have them generate three random images (e.g., "a cat riding a skateboard in space").
- **The Point:** Inform them that generating a single high-quality AI image can draw enough electricity to fully charge a smartphone battery, and cooling the data centre for that query consumes a noticeable amount of fresh water. The "invisible" cloud has a massive physical footprint.

Scripture Reading

- **Luke 12:15:** "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'"
- **Isaiah 5:8:** "Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land."

Discussion Questions

1. Were you surprised to learn that training and running AI models consumes massive amounts of electricity and millions of litres of water? Why do you think these costs are usually kept hidden from consumers?
2. Read Luke 12:15. In what ways is our current cultural obsession with faster, more powerful AI driven by a desire for "an abundance of possessions" or constant digital convenience?
3. How can we balance our appreciation for technological progress with the biblical warning against exploiting resources at the expense of others and the environment?

Leader Notes & Talking Points

- **Core Concept:** The modern economy treats resource limits as obstacles to bypass rather than boundaries to respect. Isaiah 5:8 critiques spatial and resource monopoly—a prophetic parallel to data centres monopolising local water tables or green grids.

- **Talking Point:** Help the group see that "the cloud" is an industrial reality. Large language models require massive server farms. When we hit "generate," a physical turbine somewhere spins, and water somewhere evaporates.

Action Step

Track your own digital footprint this week. Try deleting old emails, cloud files, or unused apps, which helps reduce the passive energy demand on global data centres.

Session 3: Technocentric Idolatry vs. True Contentment

Focus: Examining the temptation to treat AI as a saviour for global problems instead of turning to God.

Youth Ministry Game: "Fix it with Pixels"

- **The Setup:** Give teams a real-world local environmental problem (e.g., a polluted local river or a littered park). Tell them they can *only* use fictional digital software or a phone app to fix it. Let them pitch ridiculous tech solutions.
- **The Point:** Highlight how silly it is to try to fix a physical, behavioural problem purely with screen-based solutions. Digital tools cannot replace physical, sacrificial community action.

Scripture Reading

- **Genesis 11:4:** "Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves...'"
- **Psalms 20:7:** "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does society treat artificial intelligence as a modern-day "Tower of Babel"—a monument to human engineering meant to solve all our existential problems?
2. What is the danger of relying *only* on technology to fix the climate crisis without changing human hearts, greed, or consumption habits?
3. Read Psalm 20:7. What does it look like practically to "trust in the name of the Lord" while still using human tools like AI to address ecological challenges?

Leader Notes & Talking Points

- **Core Concept:** Idolatry shifts our trust from the Creator to the creation. Tech-salvation is the belief that human innovation can out-engineer the consequences of human sin without requiring repentance.
- **Talking Point:** The Tower of Babel was about security and fame independent of God. When secular futurists pitch AI as the sole solution to save humanity from climate disaster, they bypass the biblical requirement for moral reformation, justice, and self-restraint.

Action Step

Identify one area of your life where convenience has led to environmental waste. Commit to practicing biblical contentment by choosing a simpler, less resource-intensive alternative this week.

Session 4: Faithful Innovation and Ethical Guidelines

Focus: Developing a vision for how Christians in tech and everyday consumers can advocate for a greener digital future.

Youth Ministry Interactive Draft: The Tech Manifesto

- **The Setup:** Provide a massive sheet of butcher paper. Have the youth write down their favourite technologies on one side, and on the other, draft 3 "Commandments" for how a Christian should use them responsibly.
- **The Point:** Move youth from passive consumers of tech to active, ethical critiquers of the systems they interact with daily.

Scripture Reading

- **Colossians 1:19–20:** "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."
- **Proverbs 31:8:** "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."

Discussion Questions

1. Read Colossians 1:20. If Christ is reconciling "all things" on earth to himself, how should that shape the career path of a Christian working in computer science, engineering, or business?
2. We discussed ethical guidelines like "ecological proportionality" (ensuring the environmental cost of an AI tool is worth its human benefit). Which of the ethical guidelines resonates most with you?

3. How can everyday consumers and the local church "speak up" (Proverbs 31:8) to demand greater environmental accountability from major tech corporations?

Leader Notes & Talking Points

- **Core Concept:** Redemption is material, not just spiritual. A Christian engineer isn't just a regular engineer who prays at their desk; they are someone who actively designs code, hardware, and systems to reflect God's justice and care for the vulnerable.
- **Talking Point:** Introduce the ethical concept of "Closed-Loop Design" or "Ecological Proportionality." Challenge the group to realise that as users, our consumer choices and advocacy have market power.

Action Step

As a group, draft a short prayer or commitment statement regarding how you will interact with technology moving forward, keeping God's creation in mind.



Print-Ready Participant Template

FAITH, AI, & THE NATURAL WORLD: A Four-Part Study Guide

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SESSION 1: THE MANDATE OF CREATION CARE

- Key Text: Genesis 2:15, Psalm 24:1
- Core Idea: AI is a powerful tool to amplify our God-given role as keepers of the Earth. It can track wildlife and predict environmental risks.

SESSION 2: THE HIDDEN COST OF THE CLOUD

- Key Text: Luke 12:15, Isaiah 5:8
- Core Idea: Digital tech has massive physical costs. Data centres demand millions of litres of water and heavy carbon output.

SESSION 3: BABEL AND CONTENTMENT

- Key Text: Genesis 11:4, Psalm 20:7
- Core Idea: AI is a tool, not a saviour. We must resist the idolatry of believing technology can fix systemic human greed.

SESSION 4: FAITHFUL INNOVATION

- Key Text: Colossians 1:19-20, Proverbs 31:8
- Core Idea: Christian engineers and consumers are called to advocate for "Earth-First" guidelines, transparent tech, and low-waste design.

BY WAY OF APPLICATION

- WEEK 1: Find one positive case study of conservation AI.
- WEEK 2: Clear out 1GB of digital clutter (old emails, apps) to save server load.
- WEEK 3: Replace one energy-heavy digital convenience with a simpler action.
- WEEK 4: Write down your personal boundaries for ethical tech consumption.

MY COVENANT PRAYER:

"Lord, help me to master the tools of this world without letting them master me.

May my digital life honour your physical creation..."

A COVENANT PRAYER FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

This prayer can be printed out, read aloud in unison at the close of Session 4, or used as a personal commitment tool for group members.

Leader:

Lord God, Creator of Heaven and Earth,
 You spoke the universe into existence, and You pronounced it good.
 The oceans, the hills, the forests, and every living creature belong to You.
 You have trusted us to be the caretakers of Your artwork.

All:

**Forgive us, Lord, for when we treat Your creation carelessly.
 Forgive us for prioritising digital speed over the health of Your earth.
 Forgive us when our desire for comfort and convenience blinds us to the physical
 costs of our choices.**

Leader:

We thank You for the gift of human ingenuity.
 Thank You for the brilliant tools, the algorithms, and the systems that allow us to
 study Your world, track endangered species, heal diseases, and protect ecosystems.

All:

**Help us to use these powerful tools to honour You.
 Grant wisdom to our computer scientists, developers, and tech leaders.
 May they design software and hardware that preserves resources, reduces waste,
 and honours the boundaries of Your creation.**

Leader:

Deliver us from the idolatry of our own technology.
 Keep us from building modern towers of arrogance, believing we can out-engineer
 the consequences of our own greed without turning back to You.

All:

Teach us the beauty of biblical contentment.

Remind us that our worth is not measured by the abundance of our digital possessions, but by our faithfulness to You.

Help us to step away from our screens to love our actual neighbours and care for the actual dirt beneath our feet.

Leader:

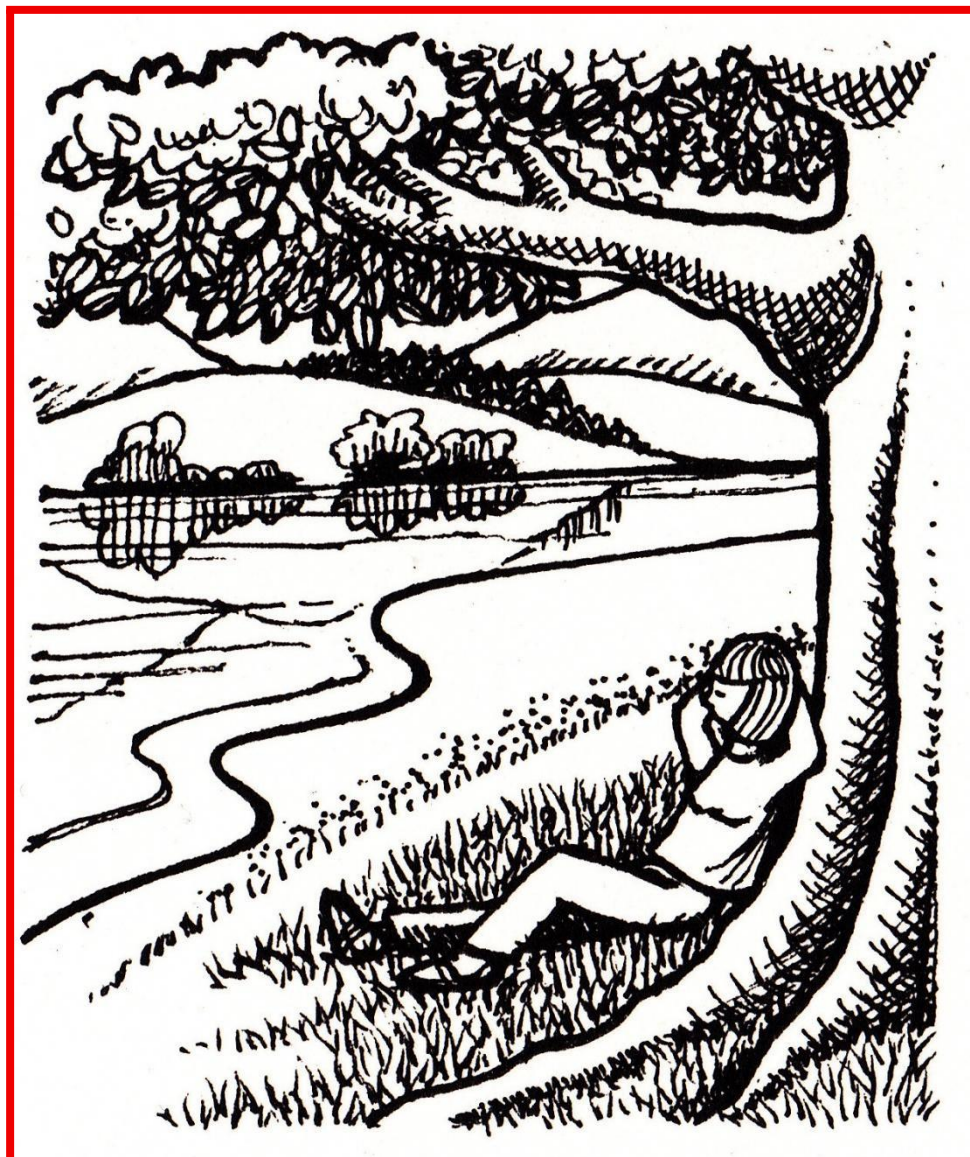
As we walk out into a rapidly changing world, may our technology serve Your redemptive purposes.

All:

May we rule over these digital tools, rather than letting them rule over us.

We commit our minds, our hands, and our devices to Your glory, looking forward to the day when all creation is fully reconciled in Jesus Christ.

Amen.



A LIST OF RELEVANT BOOKS AND ORGANISATIONS

Use these foundational resources, books, and advocacy networks to build your personal reading list or connect your church with active projects.

Essential Books

- **"Creation Care: A Biblical Theology of the Natural World"** by Douglas J. Moo and Jonathan A. Moo
A thorough scriptural framework detailing why the physical earth matters intensely to God, examining both Old and New Testament perspectives.
- **"Eco-Incites: Cogent Comments on Creation Care for Such a Time as This"** by Phillip Donnell
A collection of poems, studies, essays, and reflections exploring home-grown creation care theology and action.
- **"The Tech-Wise Family" & "The Common Rule"** by Andy Crouch
A practical guide on how to position modern technology underneath the lordship of Christ, resisting the cultural drift toward mindless consumerism.
- **"Following Jesus in a Digital Age"** by Jason Thacker
An accessible primer highlighting how a Christian worldview shapes our engagement with data, algorithms, and artificial intelligence.

Connected Organisations & Networks

- [New Creation New Zealand](#)
A dedicated creation care ministry founded in Aotearoa New Zealand that creates tailored resources, speaks to Christian groups, and provides workshops to mobilise believers to adopt environmental stewardship as an essential part of discipleship.
- [A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
*Part of a global family of Christian conservation organisations. They combine ecological research with hands-on community projects, and run the **Eco Church NZ** project to help churches cut down on waste, track carbon, and live sustainably.*
- The Lausanne Movement: Creation Care Network
A global body linking environmental care to the holistic mission of the church, delivering theological papers and strategy toolkits for ministries navigating technical and industrial shifts.

- The Evangelical Environmental Network
An educational and advocacy group equipping churches to be faithful stewards of God's creation, with a strong focus on clean energy policies and resource accountability.
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