



Technology is constantly changing and advancing. It's rate of change is mind boggling. There are people who remember when the television did not exist, when cars were not common, and when computers were just punch cards and vacuum tubes. Now, you can purchase High Definition TV and DVDs, families own a car for each member, and computers have shrunk and been merged with cell phones.

New technology often scares people. They are afraid of what it means for their way of life, and of what dangers it may bring. Modern technology does indeed offer a plethora of pitfalls. However, the right response is not to hide from it, ban it, or fear it. Instead, we should learn as much as we can about it - so that we can protect our families, churches, schools, and students from the damage that can arise. Knowledge is power. Get stronger.

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THE DEFENSE SERIES



Technical Pitfalls

PARTICIPANT EDITION



THE DEFENSE SERIES:
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DAY FIVE

READ IT

Children have no way to know what is best for them. You, as parents, do know the long-term consequences of behavior. While a teen may think that they should be able to watch anything they want, we know that the introduction of sexual imagery is something that can never really be forgotten. They may think that playing games and surfing the internet is fine to do all night, while we know that too much of it creates virtual worlds and social awkwardness. We need to take the steps to set up protection for our family.

THINK ABOUT IT

- Who is in control in your home - you or your children?

- What happens in your home when you and kids disagree?

- Is the Bible the foundation for your decisions? How can you increase its influence on you?

- How can you take steps to protect your family?

- Pray and ask God to help you to always be equipped, prepared, alert, and unified. Ask Him to give you wisdom and discernment. Pray that your family will be on the same page, and open, honest, supportive, and encouraging of each other.

DAY FOUR

READ IT

Being open and real is critical. If kids think this is just a ploy to get information, or a trick, they will never agree. We as parents hate to admit we did something wrong, so we often are tempted to keep our failures secret from our kids. But they need to know that living a pure life is hard. So we need to make sure they understand where we have messed up – and that they see there are consequences for our actions. They also need to know that they can ask anything and we will seriously and honestly address it. As a parent, you need to understand that your kids want to know about things like drugs, sex, ethics. And if you won't answer them, they WILL find the answer somewhere. That should be the most terrifying thing to us. In the movie *The American President*, the President's advisor chides him about being silent on a major issue. He says, "People are desperate for the truth. They will crawl across the desert to find it. And if they can't find any, they will drink the sand. Why? Because they don't know any better." We need to understand that kids need answers – and we should be thrilled to be the ones to give them. Even if talks about sex are terrifying to you, DO NOT let them formulate their understanding of it from movies and health class.

THINK ABOUT IT

- Have you ever opened up to your kids about your past mistakes and their consequences?

- Are you nervous about being open? How can you overcome that?

- Where are your kids getting their answers if not from you?

- Pray that God will help you be open about your past with your kids - and that those events will serve as good training and warning for them. Ask Him for opportunities to answer your kids' questions.

Technology Today



STUDENT ACTIVITY

Look at the following list of terms and, in the space provided, write what you think the item is used for.

- Facebook _____

- Twitter _____

- BitTorrent _____

- Hulu _____

- Sexting _____

- Web Enabled TV _____

- Netflix _____

- Phishing _____

- Blog _____

- ChatRoulette _____

For those of you who are not well versed in technology, some of the above terms sound just as foreign as something you would hear on the streets of Paris or Rome.

THE STATS

THINK ABOUT IT

- How much does the porn industry generate each year? How much is through the internet?

- What percent of teens have visited a porn site?

NOTES

1. THERE ARE _____ WEBSITES. _____ ARE BLOGS.
2. THERE ARE BETWEEN _____ AND _____ PORN SITES
3. THE PORN INDUSTRY TOOK IN _____ WORLDWIDE. AT LEAST _____ WAS IN THE UNITED STATES.
4. _____ OF THAT WAS FROM ONLINE PORNOGRAPHY. IT IS ESTIMATED _____ IS FROM CHILD PORN.
5. OVER _____ OF TEENS HAVE VIEWED A PORN SITE
6. TWO-THIRDS OF PORN SITES HAVE NO _____ POSTED

The people who run the porn industry are absolutely brilliant. They are incredible marketers and economists and long-range planners. They hire the best minds in electronics and computers and business.

THINK ABOUT IT

- Were you really aware of the online situation?
-
-
- What do you think about when you read those stats?
-
-
- Do you feel prepared to deal with technological issues with your children/students?
-
-

DAY THREE

READ IT

You need to talk to your kids. We all know that teenagers love to spend hours and hours chatting with their parents about all kinds of topics. (What?) Seriously, this is going to be a lifelong battle. It is something to start early, to show your young kids that talking to mom and dad is a good thing. And it needs to be reinforced time and again. For those of you with teens already, let this be an example of being humble. Talk to your teens and tell them you have not been as open with them as you should be. Ask for their forgiveness and tell them you want to work on it.

This cannot be a once-a-month grilling session. There needs to be continuous and honest discussion. The more that you show that you are desiring a relationship, the more they will believe you. And even if they fight it for a time, they will know they can trust you when the time comes.

THINK ABOUT IT

- How can you improve your conversation with your kids?
-
-
- How do your children responds when you try to talk to them?
-
-
- What is the importance of talking to your kids? What are some Biblical example or command about this?
-
-
-
- Pray and ask God to help you know how to talk to your kids. Ask Him to help them open up to you as well. Pray for God to repair any damage from past poor communication. Ask Him to also open doors for future success in these efforts.

DAY TWO

READ IT

One of the big debates going on right now is about the rights of parents to violate the privacy of their kids when it comes to computers. Does a parent have the right to check their internet cache or history? If you are one of those parents who don't want to violate your child's privacy, think about this. Would you want to know if your child had poison or a weapon? Would the danger of that item overrule the privacy and trust you want to extend that child? The answer is obviously yes. That is how you HAVE TO view this issue. Your children are playing with fire with the internet. And do not think that they are too mature, too spiritual, or too good to mess up. How many pastors have to fall to show that anyone is vulnerable? Bill Perkins once said, "If you think that you can't fall into sexual sin, then you are holier than David, stronger than Samson, and wiser than Solomon." That is to show that the sexual desire is alive in every human – and especially strong in young people. To assume that, with hormones and curiosity raging, they will always run from sexual sin, is to assume your child is stronger than you. This is not a cry to spy on your children. It is a call to get to KNOW your kids.

THINK ABOUT IT

- In the interest of privacy, have you neglected your child's well being?

- What do you think when you read the Perkins quote above?

- Can you see how the internet & technology can be a weapon? How?

- Pray that God will help you to know where the line between privacy/respect and protection in in your family. Ask Him to give you courage to take a hard stand, if necessary. Pray that God protects your home and your children.

PITFALLS WITH COMPUTERS

NOTES

1. PORN SITES

2. PORN-NAPPED SITE NAMES

3. NON-PORN BUT SEXUAL SITES

4. VIDEO SHARING SITES

5. ONLINE COMMUNITIES

6. CHAT ROOMS AND MESSAGE BOARDS

7. COMPUTER/TV INTERFACES

PITFALLS WITH VIDEO GAMES

NOTES

1. ALL PLATFORMS ARE AFFECTED

2. HIDDEN SEXUAL CONTENT

3. OVERT SEXUAL THEMES

4. DISTURBING MESSAGES ABOUT MEN & WOMEN

PITFALLS WITH IPODS AND MP3S

NOTES

PITFALLS WITH CELL PHONES

NOTES

PITFALLS WITH TELEVISION

NOTES

1. NETWORK TELEVISION

2. CABLE TELEVISION

3. PREMIUM STATIONS

DAY ONE

READ IT

One of the biggest struggles families face in this age is noise – there are so many competing voices and things to grab our attention. So it takes a concerted effort to stand out through the cacophony. But, we must make sure that we establish Holy Homes. This is a concept that Clay Crosse and his wife Renee promote across the country. It is a commitment to see our homes set apart for God and His purposes. This is a challenge – and it takes a lot of effort. But this is what we are called to do as Christians.

We are in a war for our children. That is not an exaggeration. Satan is trying to destroy the family, destroy your children. And we are the last line of defense. We have to be willing to fight for our kids. Any military veteran will tell you that there are keys to success: be equipped, be prepared, be alert, be unified. In this battle, you get equipped by finding tools like software filters and accountability programs. You are prepared by finding as much information about technology that you can find. You are alert by continually keeping an eye on the situation – willing to talk about any problem or question that arises. And you are unified when you bring your family together around the throne of God.

THINK ABOUT IT

- How do you feel yourself winning or losing the battle for your children?

- Are you equipped, prepared, alert, and unified? How can you improve?

- Is your home set apart for God? How can you accomplish that?

- Pray and ask God to help you to honestly evaluate your home. Ask Him to set aside your home for His purpose - and for wisdom on how to protect and defend your home.

3. CHECK YOUR COMPUTER'S _____ AND _____

CREATE A HOLY HOME

READ IT

- DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9; PROVERBS 22:6

NOTES

1. WRITE GOD'S WORD ON YOUR _____

2. _____ GOOD BEHAVIOR

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PITFALLS WITH MOVIES

NOTES

1. THE UNRATED DVD

2. UNRATED DVD FEATURES

MEDIA MESSAGES

NOTES

1. EVERYONE HAS SEX; MARRIAGE IS OPTIONAL

2. HOMOSEXUALITY IS GENETIC

3. EXPERIMENTATION IS NORMAL

4. WOMEN MUST BE SEXY

5. IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY; IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD

6. PORN IS NORMAL, HEALTHY ENTERTAINMENT

7. MEN ARE STUPID, BUT CAN BE TRAINED

8. NORMAL TEENS HAVE SEX

9. HUGE AGE GAPS ARE NOT PROBLEMATIC

10. THERE ARE NO CONSEQUENCES

THINK ABOUT IT

- Looking at this information, what are some areas that surprised you?

- Are there areas that you can see weakness in your own family?

CREATE AWARENESS

NOTES

1. KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS ARE _____

2. KNOW WHAT _____ THEY OWN

3. KEEP UP WITH THE _____

4. KNOW WHO THEIR _____ ARE

CREATE DIALOGUE

NOTES

1. TALK _____ AND _____

2. BE _____ WITH YOUR KIDS

3. MAKE YOUR HOME A _____

CREATE PROTECTION

NOTES

1. MAKE _____ ON COMPUTER USAGE & TIMES

2. INSTALL _____ SOFTWARE AND _____ SCANS

VIRUS SCANNING: _____

SPYWARE SCANNING: _____

CONTENT FILTERS: _____

ACCOUNTABILITY SOFTWARE: _____

HARDWARE SOLUTIONS: _____
