

# **Wired for Wisdom**

Navigating Technology with Faith







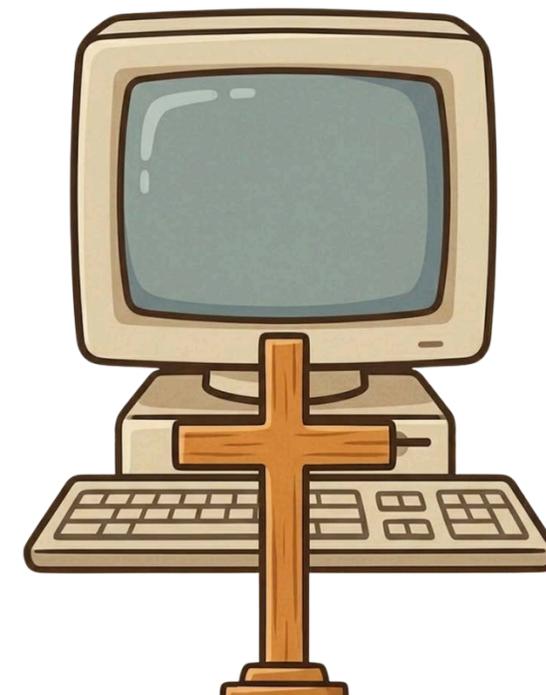
## My Job

- Teach at Hukanui School.
- Lead ICT.
- Supported my wider community of 22 schools and 12 early child education centres.
- Interested in how humans interact with technology.



# Welcome & Purpose: Why Are We Talking About Technology at Church?

- Technology is shaping our world, our minds, and even our faith journeys.
- This session is not about rejecting technology, but exploring how we can engage with wisdom and safety.
- We will look at tech through a Christian lens – with hope, discernment, and purpose.
- **Whakawhanaungatanga - What was the first piece of digital technology you owned and how did you use it.**



**What events in your life time changed the world  
forever?**

**What events in your life time changed the world  
forever?**

**November 9 1989**

**What events in your life time changed the world forever?**



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**August 31  
1997**

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**What events in your life time changed the world  
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**September 11, 2001**

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**What events in your life time changed the world  
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**Spring of 1961**

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**February 4, 2004**

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**November 30, 2022**

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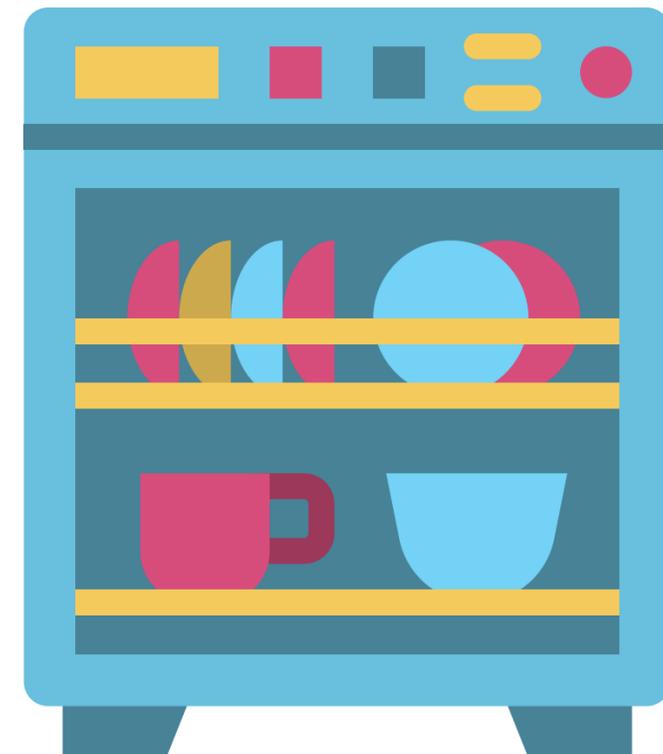
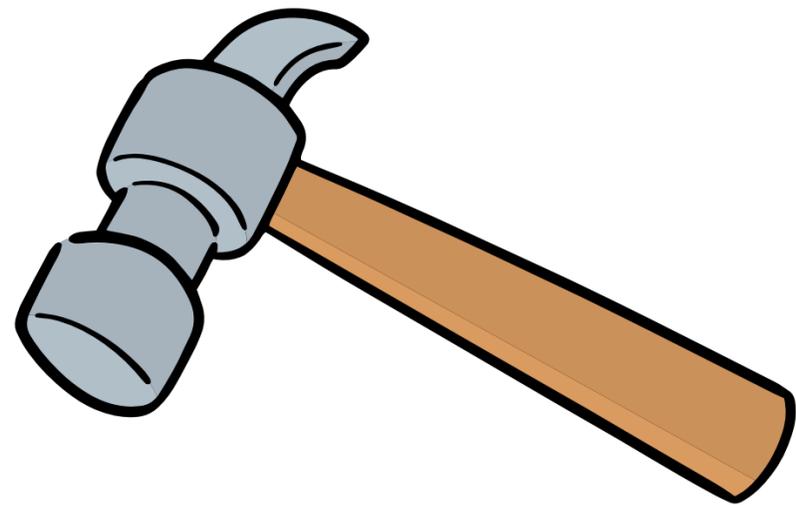


AI is when humans design computer systems that can learn from experience, recognise patterns, and make decisions or solve problems—somewhat like the thinking and wisdom people use in everyday life, but created and guided by human knowledge.

Focus: AI and maybe social media.

# The Big Picture: Where Does Technology Fit in God's Story?

- We live in God's story: Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration.
- Humans are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27) with the ability to create and innovate.
- Technology can be a tool for good or harm.
- Our tools are never neutral — they shape how we live, relate, and worship.



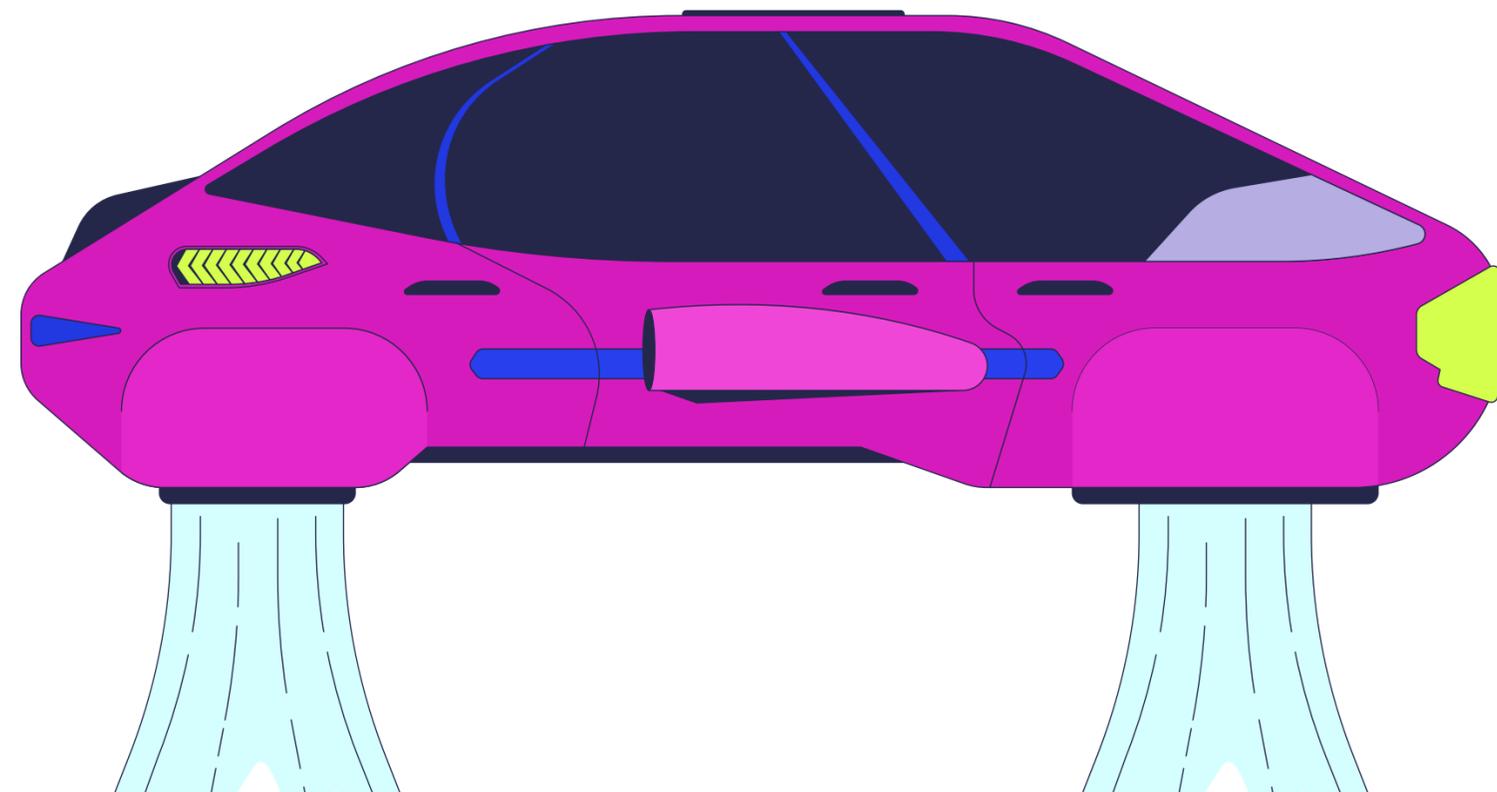
# Shigeru Miyamoto



# The Double-Edged Sword: Every Tool Shapes

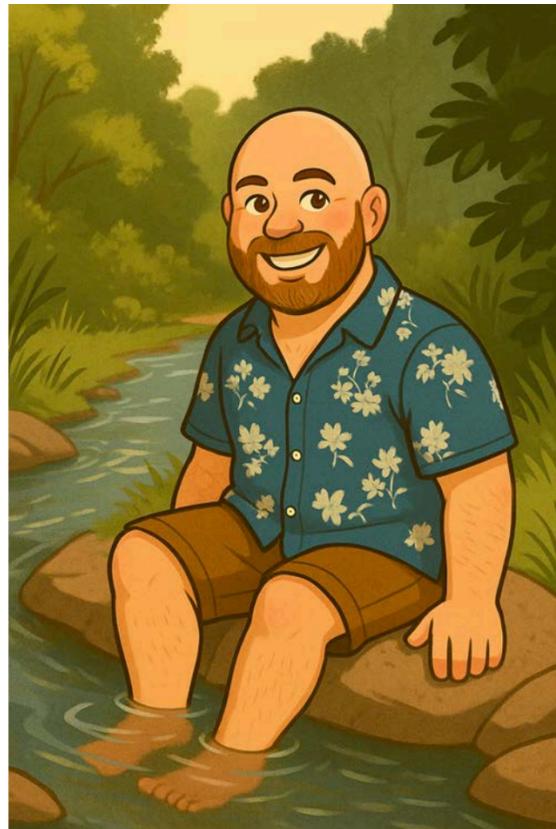
## Us

- Social media connects us — but also distracts and divides.
- AI solves problems — but can distort truth and replace human roles.
- Marshall McLuhan: "We shape our tools and thereafter they shape us."
- **Let's reflect on how technology forms our habits, hearts, and homes.**



# Wisdom, Not Fear: How Do We Make Wise Choices?

- Romans 12:2: “Do not conform... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
- Wisdom is about **intentional**, prayerful living.
- Our tech use should reflect our discipleship.
- Faithful engagement > fearful withdrawal.



# Digital Natives vs. Digital Immigrants.



# **Ancient Wisdom For A Modern World.**

Bring your hard earned lessons.

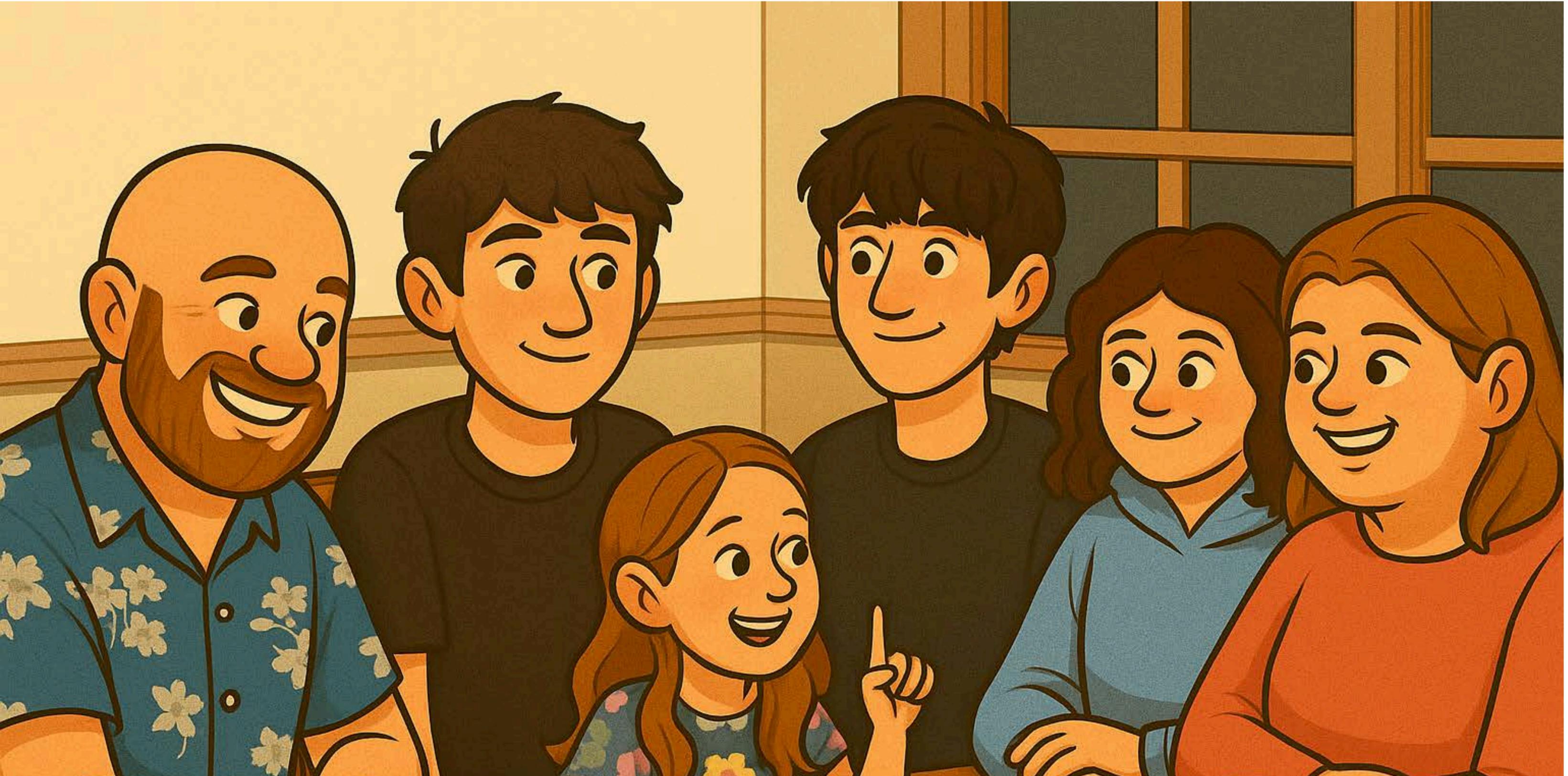
**FAITH**  
**★ OVER ★**  
**FEAR**

Isaiah 41:10

# Faithful in the Digital Age

- Technology is a powerful gift – and a powerful responsibility.
- We are not called to fear, but to wisdom, love, and presence.
- May we be people who shine in every space we inhabit – online and off.
- Colossians 3:17 – “Whatever you do... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

# Have Conversations



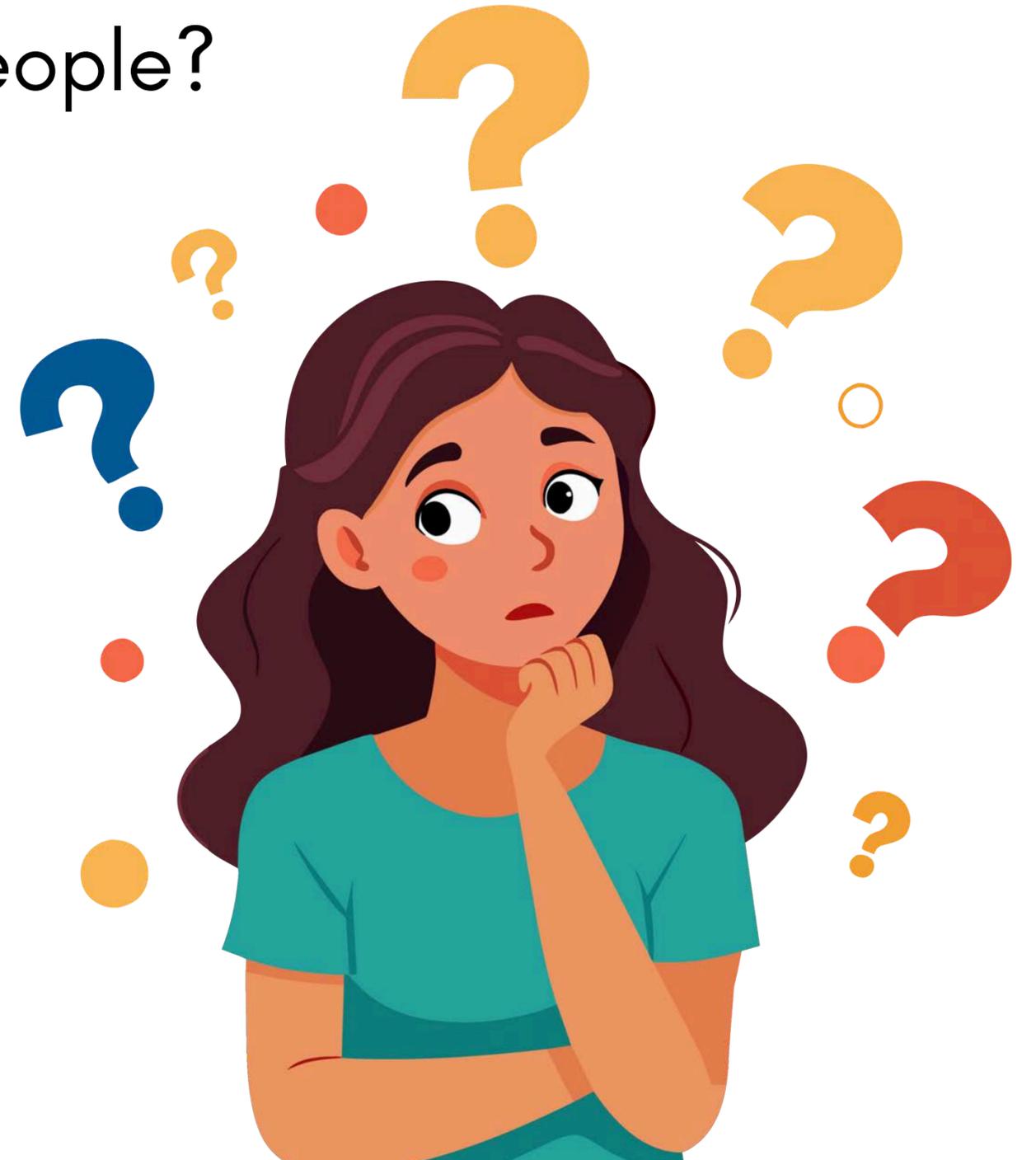
# Be Intentional

On average, people spend approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes to 2 hours and 30 minutes on social media daily. With younger users often spending significantly more, sometimes up to 7 or 8 hours.

# Questions for Discernment:

## Questions to Ask About Any Technology

1. Does it help me love God and love people?
2. Who is shaping me through this?
3. What is this replacing in my life?
4. Am I using it, or is it using me?
5. What fruit does it produce?
6. Would I want Jesus to see this?



**Moving to the practical...**

# On a Practical Level

Be intentional / Have the conversation

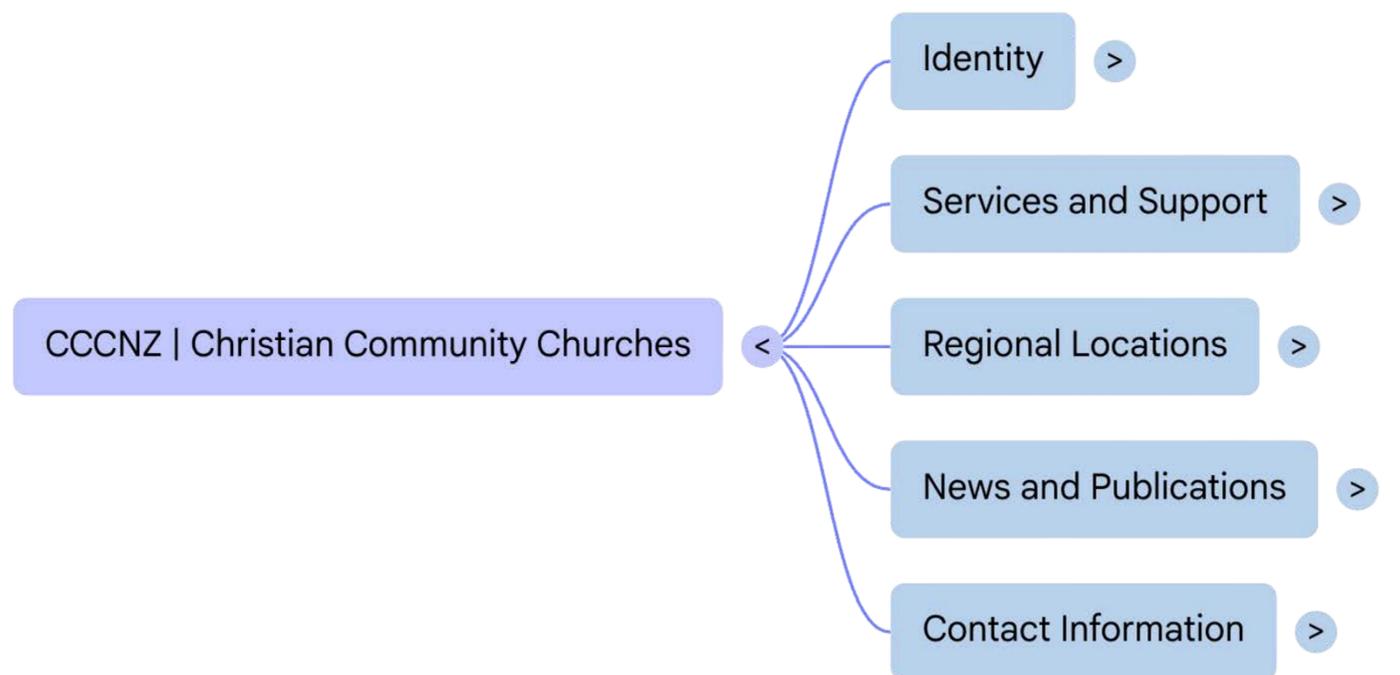
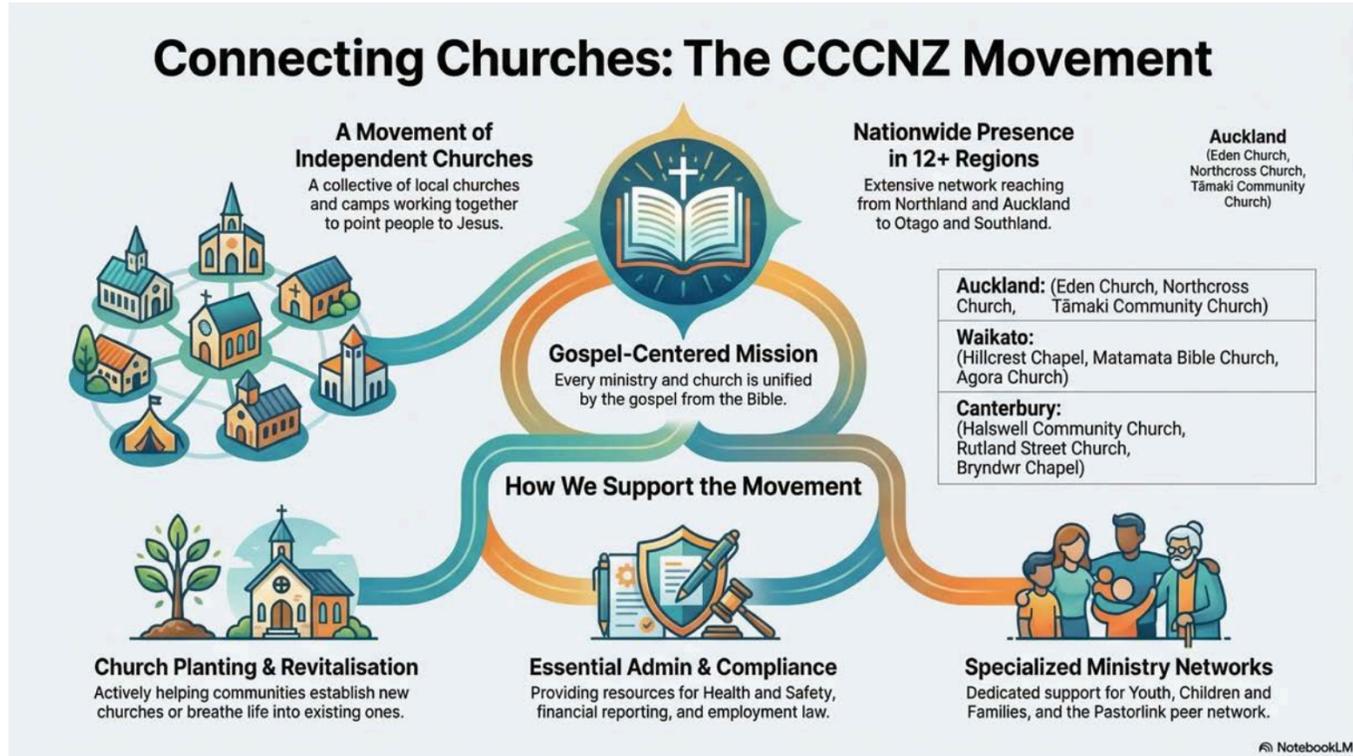
1. Would you be happy with the preacher using AI to write the sermon?
2. Would you be happy with the preacher using AI to research the sermon?
3. What about a life group leader using AI to write a bible study?
4. Planning Sunday School?

# Large Language Models





# NotebookLM





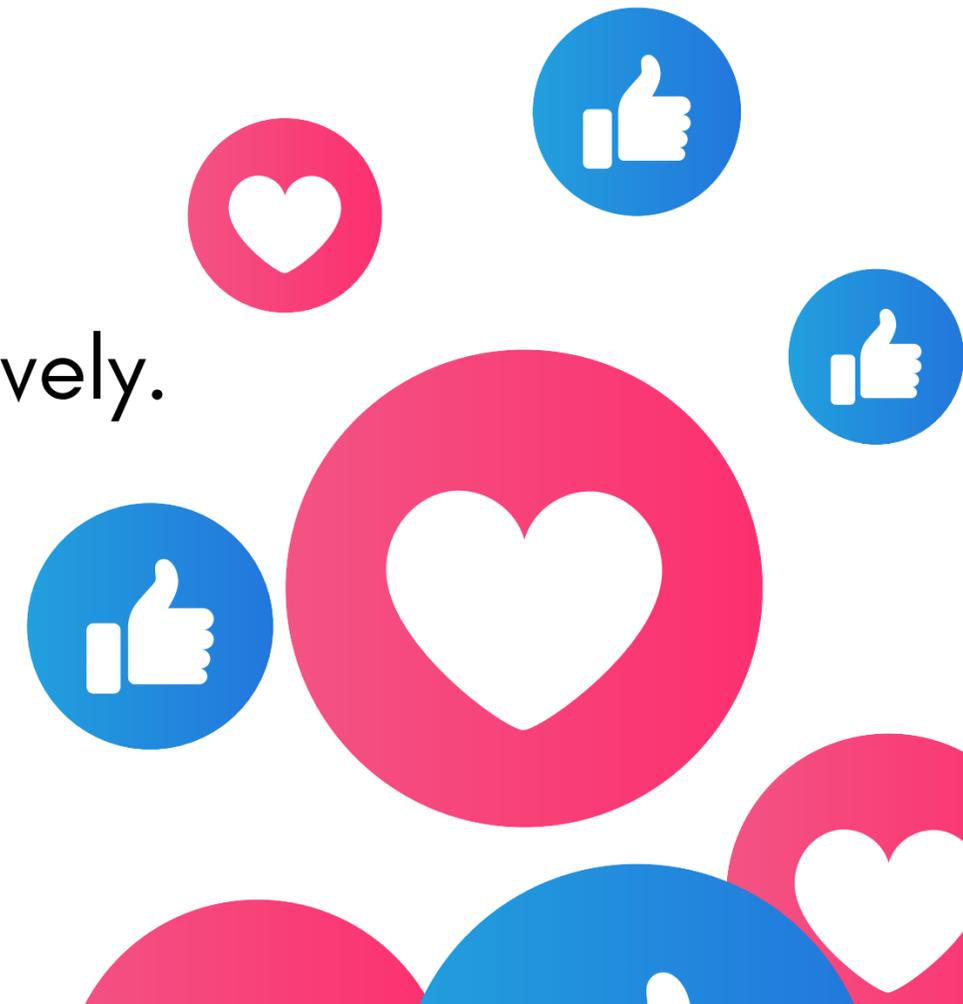


**QuestionWell**

# Spotlight on Social Media:

## Social Media: Connection or Consumption?

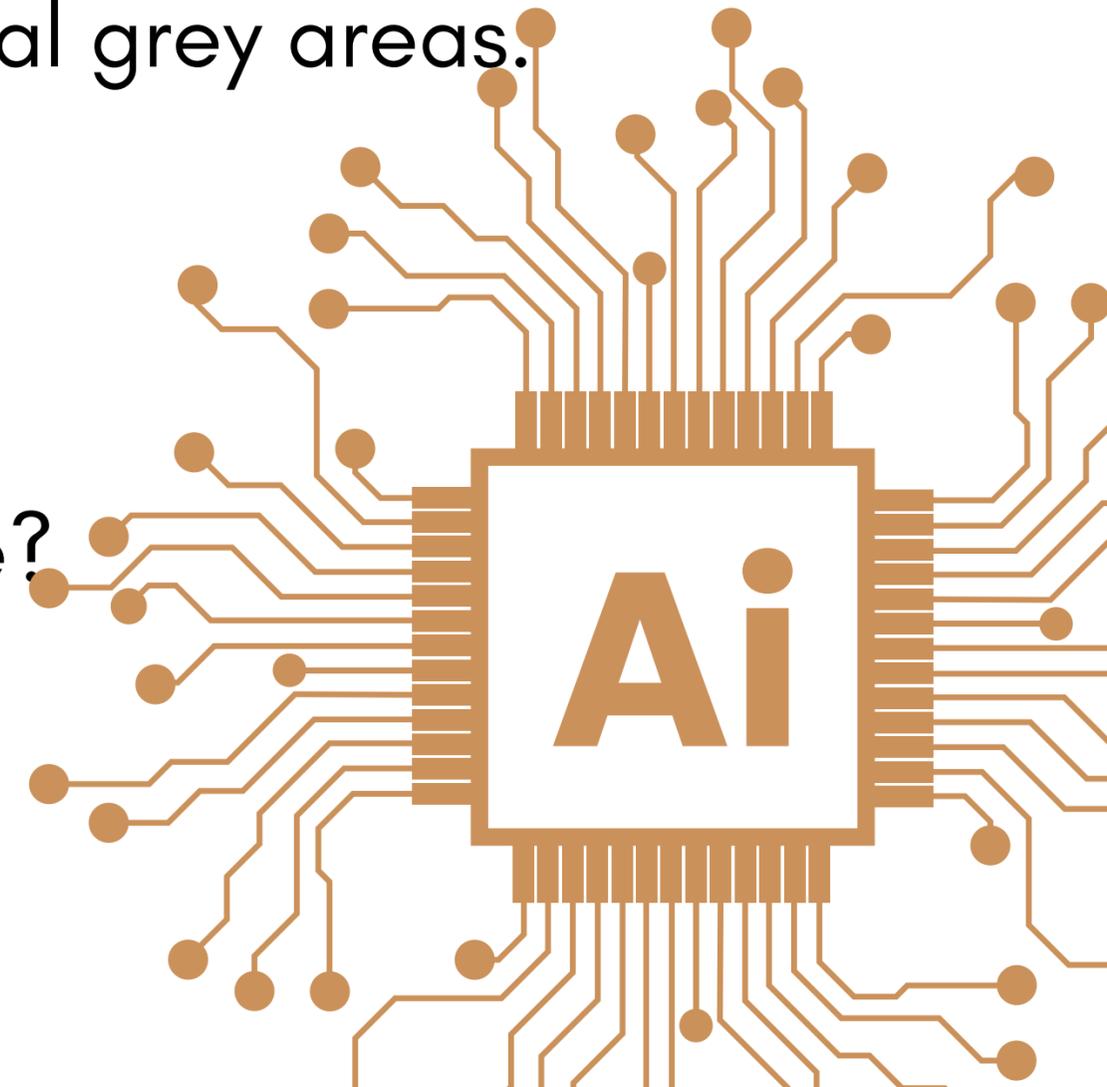
- The good: connection, creativity, learning, awareness.
- The challenge: comparison, anxiety, distraction, outrage.
- Questions to consider:
  - Is this loving?
  - Is this true?
  - Is this wise?
- Philippians 4:8 – Think on what is true, noble, pure, lovely.



# Spotlight on AI:

## AI: Partner, Tool, or Threat?

- What is AI?
- Potential: efficiency, creativity, problem-solving.
- Concerns: disinformation, job displacement, ethical grey areas.
- Christian questions:
  - Are we outsourcing too much?
  - What does it mean to be human?
  - Are we seeing others as made in God's image?



# Hopeful Vision for the Church: How Can the Church Shine Online?

- The church has always adapted: scrolls → printing press → radio → digital.
- We're called to be a faithful presence in every space, including online.
- What does it mean to be salt and light in a digital world?
- Matthew 5:14-16 - "Let your light shine..."

