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Youth Ministry
PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH AND TRIENNIUM

Faithful Discernment in an AI World

A Theological and Ethics Framework + Worksheet

Framing the Conversation
Instead of asking, Is AI good or bad?

We ask:

- What are the environmental impacts?
- Who is disadvantaged when we use it?
- Who benefits when we use it?
- Does it free up our time with tasks to allow us to be more relational?
- Does it allow us to adapt things to be more inclusive?
- And more…

A Faith-Based Ethical Framework
Scripture doesn't give us technology rules, but it does shape our discernment. This resource will use three texts to be our lens to ask discernment questions for AI tools like ChatGPT and Claude.

Romans 12:2 (CEB)

"Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds…"

Romans 12:2 invites us to pause before we either rush to adopt what the world offers or to reflexively reject it.

Discernment Questions (Romans 12:2)

- Is this tool shaping how I think, or am I intentionally shaping how I use it?
- Am I choosing this because it is fast and efficient, or because it truly supports learning and growth?
- Am I avoiding this tool out of fear, or engaging it thoughtfully through my values?
- Does this practice deepen my curiosity, reflection, and wisdom, or bypass them?
- In this choice, am I seeking God's will for what is good, just, and life-giving?

Micah 6:8 (CEB)

"Do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God."

Micah reminds us that faith is not only about personal intention, but about impact. How we use powerful tools like AI has real consequences for others, especially those whose voices are already marginalized. This text calls us to examine not only what we do, but who is affected and how we move through the world.

Discernment Questions (Micah 6:8)

- Who benefits from the use of AI?
- Who might be harmed or excluded, whose voices might be left out?
- Where might bias, dishonesty, or inequality show up?
- What environmental impact might this use of AI have, and who bears the cost of that impact?
- Am I walking humbly, aware of my limits and the limits of this tool?

Matthew 22:36–39 (CEB)

"Love the Lord your God… and your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus centers love of God and neighbor as the greatest commandment and faithful living. When considering AI, this commandment asks us to look beyond productivity and convenience and toward relationships, care, and trust.

Discernment Questions (Matthew 22)

- Does my use of AI deepen or diminish relationships?
- Does it help me find ways to love my neighbors? If yes, how?
- Would I feel comfortable explaining this choice to someone I trust?

Ethics Are Often Grey

Most ethical decisions involve tradeoffs. AI can be helpful, and it also carries environmental and social costs. Faithful response doesn't require avoiding every tool but choosing practices that restore balance and reflect care for people and creation.

Examples of ethical offsets may include:

- Continuing to purchase curriculum, books, and art created by people
- Supporting writers, artists, and educators rather than relying solely on generated content
- Giving regularly to water conservation or water testing efforts that protect communities and ecosystems

Discernment invites responsibility, not perfection.

WORKSHEET: DISCERNING AI USE
(For leaders or youth — use individually or in groups)

1. Name the Tool or Situation

What AI tool are you using or considering using?

What are you using it for?

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2. Romans 12:2 — Formation Check

Circle or discuss:

- Does this help me learn, or avoid learning?
- Does this encourage thinking, or shortcut it?
- Is this shaping my habits in ways that I want?

Notes:

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3. Micah 6:8 — Justice & Humility Check

- Who benefits from this use?
- Who might be harmed or left out?
- What assumptions or bias might be present?

Notes:

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4. Matthew 22 — Love Check

- Does this use help me love God and others more fully?
- Does it help me include and welcome others?
- Would I be okay being transparent about this choice?

Notes:

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5. Discerned Decision

Based on faith, integrity, and care, how will I choose to engage, or not engage, with this tool?

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