

SUB TOPIC THEME:

Plugged In & Fried

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

To help students take a step back from their life and evaluate their priorities. To bring about new commitment to living as a witness by exploring the downfalls of living our lives by seeking things only valued on earth. In order to bring about resilience in the face of the overwhelming technology around us, we need to equip students to recognize what has value and understand the importance of prioritizing service to God over our own selfish desires.

**Set Up Info:***Supplies Needed*

1. Copies of the Student Response sheet (printed below)
2. Bibles so you can look up the Scripture story and central Bible passages
3. A passion to see students transformed in their understanding of God's love and presence in their lives!

Instructive Prep

The world today is jammed full of technology. Our flesh and blood existences is inextricably linked to our virtual one. So what does this mean for kids growing up today? How are they supposed to handle the overwhelming amount of social media and accessibility of instant gratification?

Leading kids forward in their faith and helping them understand the importance of prioritizing service to God over excessive indulgence in technology is crucial to their development. In order for students to have resilience in this digital world, they must be confident as they distinguish themselves from the world and choose God over themselves.

The progression of these studies is four-fold: *learn, feel, do and what next*. We want students to learn something new, connect at an emotional level to some degree, and participate in doing something during the study (like making a hand gesture as a tool/reminder). Finally, the *what next* focuses on a change in attitude and/or behavior, which you will find in the challenge of the Life Application section. Remember, the movement is toward spiritual and emotional transformation in kids' lives, so the application section based on God's truth is really the crux of the time together! Have fun and lead well.

INTRO:

When something, like technology, becomes such a huge part of our lives that we can't imagine living without it, there is always a good chance that we will get our priorities screwed up soon. We get more and more involved and, before we know it, spending time on Xbox or Pinterest is more important than connecting with our family or spending time in Scripture. And the crazy thing is that we can justify it! We say that we are learning or making friends or whatever it is that makes it very important in our lives.

What we spend our time on is what we value in life. As followers of Christ, we need to make sure we aren't spending our time on frivolous things of this world and missing out on the amazing things God has in store for us to do!

INTRO STORY:

We all know that there is absolutely nothing wrong with going on Facebook or Instagramming your bagel and schmear. Just like no one is going to say that emailing your boss or researching the best car to buy is a bad thing to do. So how do you know when you have crossed over that line and put technology over your walk with God? With so much of our daily life happening online, how do we know when it's too much?

When Josh got up for school, he checked his weather app before getting dressed and he listened to Pandora while he showered and shaved. At school, he texted his girlfriend, Gabbie, to meet him outside for lunch. He was playing a game on his phone when she got there and didn't quit until he had died. While she was waiting, Gabbie had gotten on Pinterest and was tweeting fun DIY ideas to her best friend Tineka. She kept scrolling through the humor section while they ate and kept showing Josh funny pictures.

After lunch Gabbie and Tineka texted each other in class. Mr. Glinch caught Tineka and took her phone away. Tineka was so angry at him that she didn't even bother picking up that night's homework from his desk and just stormed out of the classroom.

That afternoon when Josh got home, he saw that Tineka had changed her facebook status and was still ranting about Mr. Glinch's unjust treatment of her earlier that day. She even made a meme making fun of his hair and almost unibrow. She kept going on and on and Gabbie thought it was getting pretty annoying so she changed her status to "Just shut up already!"

The rest of the night Tineka and Gabbie were arguing. They made passive aggressive posts, Tineka removed Gabbie from her circle so Gabbie posted a before pic of Tineka from their last makeover night. Then around dinner time other people started getting involved and Josh's phone started getting blown up over the girl's

tiff. He didn't really care and thought it was a waste of time to engage so he just got on the Xbox and started playing some CoD.

He played until his mom came down and yelled at him to go to bed. Then one more match after she went into her room. When he set his alarm he saw that he had 3 texts and 2 missed calls from his girlfriend. He figured he'd just see her tomorrow in school and went to sleep.

INTRO QUESTIONS:

1. Who did you relate to the most in this story?
2. Who seemed to have pretty good priorities? Why?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Find out who has their birthday next and start with them. Let them choose if you go clockwise or counter clock-wise around the group.

1. When you think about being overwhelmed by technology, what are the 3 main ways you experience that in your own life? (use Student response sheet)
2. Do you think you have a problem prioritizing God over yourself? Why or why not? (use Student response sheet)
4. What did Josh, Gabbie, and Tineka do right? What did they do wrong? Discuss this as a group.
5. How would your day-to-day life change if you always put God first? (use Student response sheet)

CENTRAL BIBLE PASSAGES

This short Bible story is a great example of how easy it is to forget what matters the most. When we get so focused on things of this world like our reputation, pleasure and success, we forget to focus our attention and efforts on God. Always keep him at the top of your list.

Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!"

The Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Talk about your biggest stumbling block when it comes to putting God first in your life. Use this as a chance to find solutions and accountability within the group. Ask the hard questions and encourage each other to move forward in your faith by setting good priorities and sticking to them.
2. Actively pray together after group members have an opportunity to talk about overwhelming situations they may be facing. Make a commitment to pray for each other every day this week! (use Student response sheet)
3. Weekly Challenge: As a group, identify 3-5 things that should be a daily priority for you. Commit to doing all of them each day this week before spending any leisure time on technology (phones, consoles, computers, iPods, everything) Some suggestions: 30 minutes of quiet time, 1 hour with family, 30 minutes exercising, 1 hour with friends face-to-face (no tech), finish homework, help out around the house, or 30 minutes of creative time (drawing, journaling, playing an instrument, etc.)

4. WRITE DOWN GROUP MEMBERS' PRAYER REQUESTS: