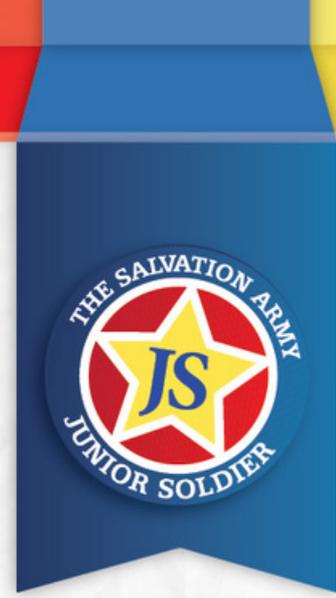


Junior Soldiers

UNIT 16 : LESSON 4



Using Technology

PURPOSE: For the children to understand that technology can be used in lots of positive ways, but it can also be misused. For them to explore some ways that they can use technology to make a positive difference.

Dear friend, don't let this bad example influence you. Follow only what is good. Remember that those who do good prove that they are God's children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God.

3 John 11a

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Technology can be a wonderful thing. It has increased our ability to learn, to connect and to play. It has made our lives easier in so many ways.

At the same time, technology can make our lives more complex and is often used to harm others. In this lesson, we explore some of the ways that technology is used and ask the children to consider how they can use it in positive ways.

Social media is a big part of how young people are using technology. Even though our Junior Soldiers may not yet be old enough to officially have social media accounts, many of them will be engaging with social media in various forms. This lesson may be a good opportunity to address issues around social media usage with your group.

Several activities in this lesson require the children to access the internet. Please ensure that you have adequate supervision of the children during these activities. Consider asking some extra adults or teenagers to assist with this lesson to help monitor usage of the technology. If borrowing devices for the lesson, please ask the owners to close tabs and clear browsing histories beforehand.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Sticky notes
- Markers
- Optional: a laptop, projector and screen, enough phones for each child. Set up a poll on an app such as 'Poll Everywhere'

For 'The Main Thing', 'Memory Verse' and 'Prayer Activity'

- Enough iPads, laptops or phones (all with internet connection) for one between two

For 'Tying In'

- Print or write out the charade topics on separate strips of paper

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.

Connecting In

Explain to the children that they will have the opportunity to use phones/iPads/laptops during this lesson. Set some boundaries and guidelines for this lesson about using technology. For example, looking after borrowed equipment, staying focused on the tasks etc.

Activity...

Most of us use technology in almost every area of our lives.

Let's think for a few minutes about how and when technology is used in our world today.

Divide the children into teams. Give each team a packet of sticky notes and a pen or marker.

Ask the children to spend five minutes brainstorming. Ask them to choose one person in their team to write each response on a separate sticky note.

While the children are working, choose 3 different spaces on your walls and label them 'good', 'bad', 'both good and bad'.

Bring the children back together. Choose one team to start. Ask a volunteer from that team to read their responses. Ask them to decide if this is a good or bad way to use technology or if it can be both. Add the sticky note to the appropriate space on the wall.

Ask the next team to add anything they have that is different to the first team. Continue until all the teams have had a turn.

Optional: Instead of using sticky notes, set up the question on an app or website such as 'Poll Everywhere'. Ask the children to enter their answer on phones and project the word cloud of their answers.

Link...

Technology can be used in helpful and unhelpful, good and bad, wise and unwise ways. Let's focus now on some helpful ways that we can use technology.

The Main Thing

Divide the children into pairs. Give each pair a word or phrase and ask the children to use the BibleGateway website to search for a verse about that topic.

For example:

- Encourage
- Kindness
- Fish
- Eternal life
- Hope
- Praise
- Peace
- Tree
- Children
- Fruit

Explain that each translation is a different way of saying the same verse. Show each pair how to look up the verse in different translations. Try:

- Contemporary English Version (CEV)
- New Living Translation (NLT)
- King James Version (KJV)
- The Message (MSG)

Ask each pair to choose a verse on their topic, in the translation that they prefer and share it. Ask them why they chose this translation.

Ask the children to search for the SalvosKids YouTube channel and give them some time to explore the content. If you have enough time, choose one to watch.

Link...

There are some helpful ways that we can use technology to connect with God. There are lots of other good things we can use technology for.

Tying In

Play charades

Explain that we can use technology to serve, connect, help, learn and encourage. Choose five volunteers. One at a time, give them one of the topics below and ask them to mime this helpful way of using technology whilst the other children guess.

- Vacuum the floor
- Facebook
- Google maps (hint if needed – gives directions)
- Recipe (hint if needed – instructions for cooking)
- Send a text message

Note: if the children are struggling to guess the mime, offer the following hints:

- Vacuum the floor – hint: clean the house
- Facebook – hint: social media
- Google maps – hint: gives directions
- Recipe – hint: instructions for cooking
- Send a text message – hint: communicate using your phone

Optional: discuss social media usage. Ask the children to share about their experiences with social media. Have they used it? Have they seen friends or siblings using it? Was this a positive or negative experience? Remind the children that we are called to treat others with kindness and love. This includes our communications via social media.

Memory Verse

Dear friend, don't let this bad example influence you. Follow only what is good. 3
John 11a

Ask the children, in pairs, to use BibleGateway to look up the verse in the New Living Translation. Ask them to take turns typing the verse into a Word document, or notes.

Prayer Time

Ask the children, in pairs, to use BibleGateway to look up a verse in Psalms. Give each pair a different verse (you can repeat verses if you have a large group). Once everyone has found their verses, explain to the children that you will move around the circle and one person from each pair can read the verse as a prayer.

- Psalm 34:1
- Psalm 36:5
- Psalm 38:9
- Psalm 38:22
- Psalm 40:5
- Psalm 40:11
- Psalm 40:13
- Psalm 41:13

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Home & Beyond

Choose one way that you can use technology in a helpful way and do it this week.

Some examples are:

- Serve – use a dishwasher or vacuum to connect with someone
- Connect – use social media to help someone find near or far
- Help – use Google maps to help someone find directions
- Learn – use Kids in the Kitchen on YouTube to learn how to cook a meal
- Encourage – use email or SMS to send a Bible verse to someone



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