

AlbertHobbes.com

parenting & technology: raising babies, toddlers & screenagers

The question for us is “will we humbly admit to our own shortcoming and pray that God would highlight areas to work on?”

Kids are resilient. God is good. God loves your children more than you ever can.



"Your scientists were so
preoccupied with whether or
not they could, they didn't
stop to think if they should."

Dr. Ian Malcolm



Digital Natives were born into it. They don't know any other way.

Parenting can sometime feel like this picture.

Digital Immigrants trying to explain to Digit Natives that they live surrounded by technology is like a scuba diver trying to explain to a fish or a ray that it lives in water.

So, parenting is hard. No, parenting is impossible.

parenting is not just hard—it's impossible



a few notes on parenting

There is nothing good enough in you and me to produce righteousness and spiritual fruit in the life of another human being.

Our goal is to parent from a position of grace not self-righteousness.

Those who have experienced the most grace moment by moment are those you distribute the most grace moment by moment. If you are living a graceless, self-righteous, works-based religious system, you will have nothing to give your kids except judgement and condemnation when they break your rules.

Who could possibly do this? Not me. Not you. With us it is impossible, but with God, all things are possible.

growing



“(social media) becomes a safe and sanitized room where I can watch the ups and downs of others as an anonymous spectator, with no compulsive impulse to respond and care in any meaningful way.”

Tony Reinke *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You*

SOURCE: <https://growingleaders.com/blog/why-empathy-is-declining-among-students-and-what-we-can-do/>

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i'm bored

Boredom is a modern invention. It wasn't used until the 18th century. How did we invent boredom?

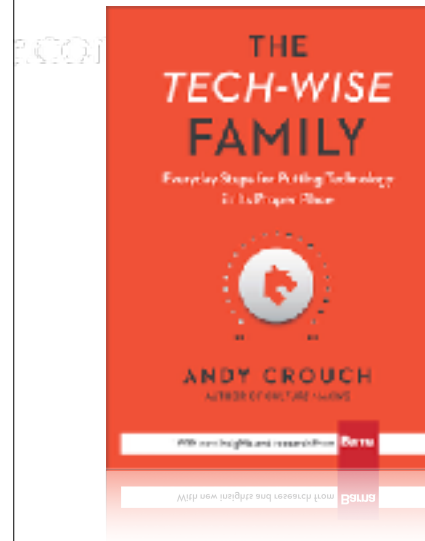
EXAMPLES:

You put on a video on that captivates (or incapacitates) the kids for the 30 minutes you need to complete a project.

You start a game and hand it to your child in the shopping cart who is getting vocal and whinny after 10 minutes of grocery shopping.

You play a video in the van ride to avoid the constant bickering that happens when a trip lasts for more than 15 min.

There is an immediate reward to each of these scenarios and a long term cost.

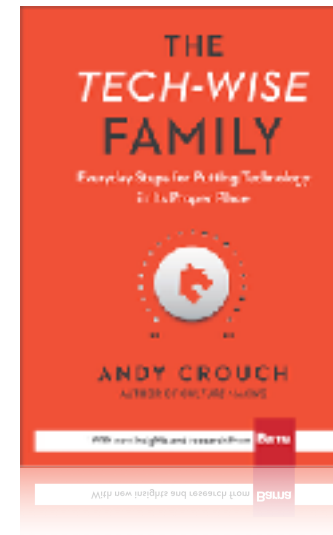


“Boredom is a modern condition. The technology that promises to release us from boredom is actually making it worse—making us more prone to seek empty distractions than we have ever been. In fact, I’ve come to the conclusion that the more you entertain children, the more bored they will get.”

Andy Crouch *The TECH-WISE Family*

“Boredom is actually a crucial warning sign—as important in its own way as physical pain. It’s a sign that our capacity for wonder and delight, contemplation and attention, real play and fruitful work, has been dangerously depleted.”

Andy Crouch *The TECH-WISE Family*





Crouch explains' these screens "contain a level of vividness and velocity that does not exist in the real world or only very rarely. Because it is rare, we instinctively respond to it, and indeed take delight in it."



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some helpful thoughts in closing

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purposeful & rare
vs.
aimless & frequent

It means becoming a connoisseur of fine technology, games, movies and tv shows. Not just snacking on junk food all the time, but eating only the finest meals. Being intentional. Being purposeful.



Just google sleeping near your phone. I went through three pages of articles and found nothing remotely positive.

ecom

a charging station

ecom

a digital device contract

3.com

technology sabbath

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Reject Ignorance, Embrace Education

Reject Folly, Embrace Responsibility

Reject Fear, Embrace Familiarity

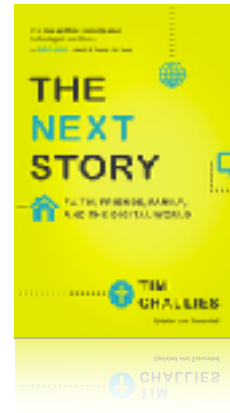
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seven steps to introducing technology into your home

from Tim Challies *The Next Story*

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1. Educate
2. Fence
3. Mentor
4. Supervise
5. Review
6. Trust
7. Model

“Technology presents us with a unique spiritual challenge. Because it is meant to serve us in fulfilling our created purpose, because it makes our lives easier, longer, and more comfortable, we are prone to assign to it something of a godlike status. We easily rely on technology to give our lives meaning, and we trust technology to provide an ultimate answer to the frustration of life in a fallen world. Because of this, technology is uniquely susceptible to becoming an idol, raising itself to the place of God in our lives.”

Tim Challies, The Next Story



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video games

beware of the porn

Beware of the cut scenes

Understand the ratings

Use Parental Controls

Beware of chatting verbally and digitally

WE have a fantasy world policy to handle fighting and shooting. Not real people, not real places and not real weapons.

NOTE: Some of the best storytelling is being done in the realm of video games.