



PeaceWiseYouth Course 7 – Lesson Plan

MODULE 2: Peacemaking in a world of complex issues

Topic 5 – Technology and social media

Students will explore the use of technology and social media within society and the impact it has on the way they deal with conflict. They will also reflect on their personal use of technology and social media and how they can use it as an opportunity to glorify God, serve others and be more like Jesus. Students will also have an opportunity to think about the type of response they have during online conflict: escape, make peace or attack.



LEARNING INTENT: *Technology and social media impact our everyday lives whether we are aware of it or not. Understanding the way, it influences our response to conflict is crucial as a peacemaker.*

	<i>Goal 1</i>	<i>Goal 2</i>	<i>Goal 3</i>
PeaceWiseYouth Topic Goals	<p>Question the use of technology and social media and the way it impacts our response to conflict.</p> <p><i>How can we use this as a conflict opportunity to be a peacemaker?</i></p> <p><i>Why do we use social media?</i></p> <p><i>How does it influence the way we view conflict?</i></p> <p><i>What types of conflict could social media cause?</i></p>	<p>Reflect on both the positive and negative impacts of technology on our relationships.</p> <p>Consider the impact technology and social media has on our relationships with others.</p> <p><i>Which side of the slippery slope do we fall towards when faced with conflict online?</i></p>	<p>Identify positive ways to respond to conflict when confronted with conflict online.</p> <p><i>How can we use online conflict as an opportunity to put God first, be kind to others and grow to be more like Jesus?</i></p>



Stimulus – Video – 16:26 minutes + discussion time

Watch the video together. Pause when prompted for discussion questions.

<https://media.peacewisekids.org/course-7-all-videos/course-7-video-5-taster/>

The following questions will be presented within the video:

- Chris talks about the way we are shaped by the storytelling of the ‘water’ around us. If you compare the Christian storytelling to the cultural storytelling of society, what are the main differences?
- Share about a time you found yourself in a conflict online and used a make peace response rather than an escape or attack response.

Allow students sufficient time to answer each question.



Learning content – Teacher-directed – 10-15 minutes

Instruct students to open their Peacemaking Journals to Topic 5.

On page 75 of *The Frog and the Fish*, Chris makes note of a few things he wished he knew about technology. You can read one of his key points in your journal:

“Technology as go-between: Increasingly, digital technologies are being used as mediator between us and real-life living. The more we embrace them the more we become self-focused, relationally lazy, and miss out on rich relational depth.”

Ask students to discuss the following questions amongst themselves. Allow ample time for discussion (6-7 minutes) before discussing together as a class.

- If we become more self-focused and relationally lazy, how does that affect the way we deal with conflict?
- If we were seeking to approach dealing with online conflict more constructively, what key things would you recommend?
- How could someone experiencing conflict online respond in ways that enable them to:
 - Put God first
 - Show kindness to others
 - Grow to be more like Jesus?

Ask students to answer the following discussion questions. The first two are taken from page 66 of *The Frog and the Fish* by Chris Parker.

- How important is it for me to stay connected and up to date? Explain why.
- Does a mass of friends online actually detract from feeling connected in real life?
- Has social media or technology made you feel more connected or more disconnected?
- How has technology changed the way you deal with conflict?
- When you experience conflict on social media, how do you deal with what you are feeling?



Personal reflection – Peacemaking Journal – 10 minutes

Share Luke 6:31 with students.

In their journals, students respond to the following questions:

- Does digital culture help me to be the person I want to be? Or can it sometimes get in the way? (Question taken from *The Frog and the Fish* by Chris Parker, p. 66.)
- If you were to apply Luke 6:31 to your social media life and the way you respond to conflict on these platforms, what changes would it require you to make?
- Create a list of goals you’d like to implement in your social media life.