

## AI church-life scenarios – Ideas for digging deeper

The AI Church-life Scenarios PDF file is self-contained and ready to use as is. However, if you feel you need additional pointers, perhaps to help the group dig deeper, we have provided some here. Remember these are only examples, you will find that other issues emerge as you discuss the scenarios.

### Using the scenarios

See page 2 of the AI Church-life Scenarios PDF for instructions on how to use them.

### Ideas for digging deeper

#### Scenario 1: Ali using ChatGPT for Sermon Preparation

**What's at stake?** Truth; authenticity; the presence of the Holy Spirit; knowing your congregation; making time to seek God as a preacher; stewardship of time.

**Bible passage:** *“Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.” — 2 Cor 4.2*

**Comments:** How important is it that preaching speaks truthfully about God? Remember, the text generated by AI is not necessarily truthful; it’s a “reasonable guess”.  
Is using AI different to using other online materials?

**Go further:** Take a look at the homepage <https://pulpitai.com/>  
Is it OK for AI to generate resources based on a sermon written by a human?

#### Scenario 2: Tor using Facial Recognition for Tracking Attendance

**What's at stake?** Privacy and bias; trust; need to provide pastoral care; relationships; welcoming new visitors; security and safety.

**Bible passages:** *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” — Matt 6.6*

*“Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve.” 1 Peter 5:2-3*

*The walk to Emmaus – Luke 24, 13-35*

**Comments:** When people come to worship, do they have a right to do so anonymously? AI can be biased in favour (or against) certain groups of people. Does this matter?

**Go further:** Explore how the choice of training data affects AI.

#### Scenario 3: Shani using AI to Advise Young People

**What's at stake?** Empathy; relational ministry; reading body language; lack of human volunteers in church; safeguarding; 24-7 access; anonymity provided by machines.

- Bible passages:** “Jesus answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’” — Luke 10.27
- “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin”. — Heb 4.15
- Comments:** How important is it to be able to empathise with the person you are talking with. In his humanity, Jesus was able to see life from the human perspective. AI can simulate what it’s like to be human “from the inside” – is that enough?
- Go further:** Take a look at the homepage: <https://replika.ai/> one of the well known “AI companion” apps.

#### Scenario 4: Ty using AI to Post on Social Media

- What’s at stake?** Ethics of analysing people’s behaviour to create tailored messages; authenticity of “automated evangelism”; privacy; relationship building.
- Bible Passage:** “I became all things to all people so that by all means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel....” - 1 Cor 9:22-23
- “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage” - 2 Tim 4:2
- Comments:** A few years ago, the evangelisation bot “Who Is Jesus?” reportedly brought 150 people to Christ *and connected them with a local church*. Doesn’t the end justify the means?
- Go further:** As the internet fills up with non-human content generated by AI, new AI tools end up “being trained on their own content”. Find out how data pollution and “model collapse” could impact AI tools of the future.

#### Scenario 5: Jamie using AI to Create Tailored Worship Songs

- What’s at stake?** Divine inspiration and the Holy Spirit; authenticity of our worship; economic and practical considerations.
- Bible Passage:** “I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever”. — Psalm 86.12
- “be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,”. - Eph 5:18b-19
- Comment:** How important is it for worship to spring from the heart and from a desire for God? In larger churches today worship, is often slick, highly rehearsed, timed to a few seconds, and performed by near professionals. So, haven’t we already given up on “worship from the heart”?
- Go further:** Find out how “deep learning” based on large language models works.