



# AI and Christian practice and faith

A resource to help churches to explore  
the relevance and impact of Artificial Intelligence

## Start here

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly advancing and will impact all our lives in the coming years. Christians will be impacted by AI in their daily lives, and churches will face new opportunities and potential dangers in how AI is used. These scenarios offer a chance to explore some of those benefits and dilemmas, and begin to apply Christian beliefs and practice. They are designed as a tool to create discussion, helping participants explore the practical, moral and theological questions that AI is creating.

## How to use

- Consider using this for training events, small groups or team meetings.
- Try dividing into groups of 3-4. Give each group a scenario and allow 20 minutes for them to consider the questions and develop their response.
- Ask each group to share their responses with the wider group and open for discussion.

What's at stake here? List the questions this scenario raises: they might be practical, moral or theological.

What beliefs, stories and principles can you draw from the Bible and Christian practice that might have something to say about this scenario?

What advice would you give to the people in this scenario?

Ali is a leader in a busy church. One particularly hectic week they run out of time to prepare the sermon for the following Sunday's service. They use Chat GPT to get an outline sermon based on the planned Bible passage with just a few added personal touches. The sermon makes a big impact and is well-received - and it takes only a fraction of the time Ali normally needs to prepare, enabling them to do other pastoral ministry. Ali's view is that using Chat GPT to create a sermon is not really different to drawing together material from other people's talks and books and using concordances - it's just quicker. They still pray and prepare themselves for what they will say. In the following months, they switch to using AI in this way for most of their preaching. They ask you whether you think this is a better use of their limited time?

What's at stake here? List the questions this scenario raises: they might be practical, moral or theological.

What beliefs, stories and principles can you draw from the Bible and Christian practice that might have something to say about this scenario?

What advice would you give to the people in this scenario?

Tor is the leader of a large church with several Sunday services. One of the challenges is knowing who is attending. New visitors can sometimes be missed. They're also aware that some church members are starting to attend less regularly, especially since the pandemic, but it's hard to spot when this is happening. A couple of professional developers in the church have just come to the church leadership with an interesting proposal for some software that connects with their CCTV system and can automatically do attendance tracking, just by simple facial recognition. It would mean that the church could keep accurate records and know exactly who had attended each service. They assure Tor that people would be made aware of what is happening and could even opt out if they chose. Tor asks for your advice on whether to explore this possibility further.

What's at stake here? List the questions this scenario raises: they might be practical, moral or theological.

What beliefs, stories and principles can you draw from the Bible and Christian practice that might have something to say about this scenario?

What advice would you give to the people in this scenario?

Shani is a full time youth worker with a large number of young people in the youth group. She struggles to find enough volunteers to help and doesn't have enough time to meet all the young people one to one and help them with their faith and any personal issues. A new Christian AI service offers an online chatbot where teenagers can ask questions about faith and get advice about their lives - it can seem like you're talking to a real person. The AI chatbot could mean it's possible for every young person to get help when they need it and Shani and her team of volunteers can concentrate on where they're needed most. Shani asks you if you think this kind of chat service is OK to be used as a form of discipleship for the young people in her group?

What's at stake here? List the questions this scenario raises: they might be practical, moral or theological.

What beliefs, stories and principles can you draw from the Bible and Christian practice that might have something to say about this scenario?

What advice would you give to the people in this scenario?

Ty leads a Christian evangelization organisation who create social media posts and online videos to share Christian faith across the world. So far they have been creating the media for this work through a team of writers and creatives. But emerging AI technology means they could automate this process, creating large amounts of content without the need for humans. What's more, they are able to analyse individual social media accounts and personalise content for each individual so that it more relevant to them - for example, someone who has recently shared about a bereavement in their social media posts, could receive a Christian message responding to that need. Ty believes this will make their mission even more fruitful. They ask you if you agree?

What's at stake here? List the questions this scenario raises: they might be practical, moral or theological.

What beliefs, stories and principles can you draw from the Bible and Christian practice that might have something to say about this scenario?

What advice would you give to the people in this scenario?

Jamie is a worship leader at a church. He has recently been using AI to create new songs that respond to themes and subjects being addressed in services. The AI technology can create both the words and the music. Jamie selects the ones to be used and adds any final touches before learning to play them with the worship band. Some of the songs have become very popular with the congregation as part of their worship. However there's a debate in the church about whether true worship can be created by AI rather than a person. Jamie says that if AI can be used to help put together a Bible study, it can also be used to create worship songs. It also saves the church money on paying copyright since they have created the songs through an algorithm. Jamie asks whether you think the church should continue to use the songs?