



## **AI in Christian Ministry – small group scenarios**

A resource to help those in Christian ministry explore the impact of Artificial Intelligence, and their response

## Start here

These scenarios offer a chance to explore some of those benefits and dilemmas of AI in Christian ministry and begin to bring Christian beliefs and practice to them.

They are designed as a tool to create discussion, helping participants explore the practical, moral and theological questions that AI is creating.

Consider using this for training events, small groups or team meetings.

## How to use

- Divide into small groups. Give each group a scenario and allow 15-20 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.

Contact [www.aichristian.org](http://www.aichristian.org) for more information

## Preaching by proxy?

*What's at stake here?*

List the questions this scenario raises: 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 do you give to the people in this scenario? Is there a line to be drawn?

Ali is a leader in a busy church. One hectic week she runs out of time to prep the sermon. She uses AI to get an outline sermon based on the planned Bible passage with a few added personal touches.

The sermon makes a big impact and is well-received - and it takes only a fraction of the time enabling Ali to do other pastoral ministry. Her view is that using AI is not that different to drawing together material from online resources and commentaries - it's just quicker. She still prays and prepares herself for what she will say.

After a year, the congregation increasingly comments on how insightful her sermons are. Ali now relies heavily on AI for structure and content and spends less time with the text personally.

She asks you whether you think this is a better use of her limited time?

## Who's missing?

*What's at stake here?*

List the questions this scenario raises: 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 do you give to the people in this scenario? Is there a line to be drawn?

Tor is the leader of a large church with several 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 but it's hard to spot when. A couple of professional developers in the church have come to the leadership with an interesting proposal for some software that connects with their CCTV system and can automatically do attendance tracking, by facial recognition. It would mean that the church could keep accurate records and do a better job of pastoral follow up.

Of course, people would be made aware of what is happening and could opt out if they chose.

Tor asks for your advice on whether to explore this possibility further.

## Always here to talk

*What's at stake here?*

List the questions this scenario raises: 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 do you give to the people in this scenario? Is there a line to be drawn?

Shani is a part time youth worker in a small church but with a large youth group. She struggles to find volunteers to help and doesn't have the time in her hours to meet all the young people one to one and help them with their faith or personal issues.

A new Christian AI service offers an online chatbot where teens can ask questions about faith and get advice about their lives - it can feel like 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 can concentrate on where she's needed most. Some of the teens tell her they already use AI chatbots and even saying "it understands me when I feel low".

Shani asks you if you think this kind of service is OK to be used as a form of discipleship for the young people in her group?

## “So that by all means some may be saved”

### *What’s at stake here?*

List the questions this scenario raises: 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 do you give to the people in this scenario? Is there a line to be drawn?

Ty works in 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 technology means they could automate this process, creating large amounts of high-quality content without the need for humans.

What’s more, they are able to analyse individual social media accounts and personalise content so that it is more relevant to each individual. For example, someone who has recently shared about a loss in their social media posts, could receive a Christian message responding to that need. The system also learns which messages generate the strongest emotional responses.

Ty is certain this will draw many more people to the faith. He asks you if you agree?

## Who wrote this song?

*What's at stake here?*

List the questions this scenario raises: 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 do you give to the people in this scenario? Is there a line to be drawn?

Jamie is a worship leader. He has recently been using AI to create new songs that respond to themes and subjects being addressed in services. The AI can create both words and 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. However, there's a debate in the church about whether true worship can be created by AI rather than by 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?

## Who made the decision?

*What's at stake here?*

List the questions this scenario raises: 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 do you give to the people in this scenario? Is there a line to be drawn?

A church (or ministry) leadership team begin using an AI tool that can (anonymously) analyse their data including engagement, giving, and demographics, across different ministries - and suggest strategies. It proposes ideas for staffing, identifies which projects appear to be declining, and recommends where to focus resources.

At first, AI is used occasionally, and always with prayer and discussion. But over time, the team notices that its recommendations are very insightful and seem to confirm what they were already thinking. Meetings become efficient, and decisions feel clearer. Gradually, the team increasingly relies on the AI when shaping direction and priorities.

One day a team member asks: are we simply using a helpful tool, or are we beginning to outsource something more fundamental?

## Discipled by AI?

*What's at stake here?*

List the questions this scenario raises: 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 do you give to the people in this scenario? Is there a line to be drawn?

A children/youth ministry team wants to support young people more personally in their faith. They begin using an AI tool that can generate personalised devotionals, offer encouragement, and answer questions about identity, purpose, and faith. The system is designed to be supportive, responsive, and always available. Young people appreciate being able to ask questions in private and receive thoughtful responses straight away. Some even find it easier to talk to the AI than to adults. The tool adapts to each individual, offering increasingly personalised messages. The responses are supportive, but rarely challenging.

Over time, some young people are turning to the AI first with questions about their struggles or their faith. One leader begins to wonder what role this tool is now playing in shaping who they are becoming and comes to you for advice.