

Good or Garbage Computing

The Principle to Learn	In God's Word
Tools have both good and bad uses.	Psalm 101:2,3

This lesson underscores the strong positive use of the Internet, as opposed to only the visual garbage that is readily accessible.

Preclass



- Review the goals of ComputiVerse
- Review the Class Tips
- Review the Gospel Message

Process

Include the steps of the gospel throughout the lesson, so while student attention is fresh, the real lesson is being planted.

Pray first

In about 1982, American universities invented a method so their computer systems could talk to one another through the telephone lines. They shared technical information about their experiments and research, but there were no pictures, sounds, or music-- only words. Sounds real dull, doesn't it? During this time it was only called the Internet.

Over the next ten years, technicians learned how to mix pictures with words, and sent those between computers. But around that same time, a very special computer program was invented. It is called a web browser. From this point on, it is correctly called either the Web or the Internet. The web browser makes it possible for you and me to see pictures on the Internet. You type in the address of the website you want to go to, and look at the web page.



But a really big problem starts right here. Very evil-minded men and women put pictures of undressed people (called "pornography") on some of the websites. Then it becomes very easy for others who aren't interested in pleasing Jesus Christ, to look at these sinful pictures on their computers in their own homes and at work.

Both adults and young people have to constantly be on guard in order to stay away from sinful web pages. We need to understand that *it is becoming increasingly difficult not to accidentally stumble onto some of these*. We must remember that Satan walks around like a hungry lion, looking for people—especially God's people-- that he can destroy with his sinful temptations.

Caution

[Parents need to understand that not only is the VIEWING of pornography easy to do, but so also is the MARKETING of it. Some have said that this is more profitable and safer than the selling of drugs.]

But God...

But even with all the sin that can be found on the Internet, a greater good is there for the young person or adult who wants to use technology to serve and glorify Jesus Christ.
Everyone who is paying for access to the Internet also has the right to develop and place there Christ-honoring web pages.

Power and influence through communication lie at our doorstep, and we can choose how these gifts from God are to be used. Since the world began, God has blessed us with many different ways of communicating with one another... through human speech, the alphabet and writing, the telephone, and now computer modems. With his wicked and sinful desires, unsaved man has clearly shown that he is capable of misusing every one of these means, in spite of the tremendous potential in each to bring honor to God, and prosperity to mankind Here is an example of misuse:

A bomb was used by young children to blow up a tree in a small Ohio village. They learned how to do this on the web.

It would seem that God's plan for man has gone completely amiss, unless we read and heed His holy Word that clearly warns of man's sinful and destructive nature. Satan would hide from us the fact that the same power seen in present-day evil communications, can also be harnessed for God's purposes and glory.

ComputiVerse

Just as you and I do, King David had to continually struggle against temptations to sin. One of the Psalms (songs) he wrote, shows us that we need to continually remind ourselves of who God is, and of our dedication to doing what is right, even in the privacy of our own homes. Psalm 101 starts out with the words,



“I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.”

He then states his determination to please God in his actions... *“I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way.”* When that is also our desire, God is surely pleased.

But wanting to do what is right isn't going to accomplish anything unless we make some rules or steps to get it done...and “keep it done”. King David does exactly that, when he states,

“I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.”

So David reminds us that behaving wisely includes what we do, even when no one else is around. God sees through the dark and on the other side of closed doors, doesn't He?

Now David goes for the biggie. He decides that he is **not** going to look at garbage. What are his attitudes about garbage stated in Psalm 101:3 below?

“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes; I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.”

Hating things that are wrong helps them not to stick to us or to remain in our daily lives. They won't “cleave” to us, like a poisonous snake would.

But we can ask God to help us develop our love for Him and the things we learn about Him through all our education, and then use it ALL for Him. (end)



Tricky Slideshow

[Theme: Satan can use graphics in ugly, seldom-noticed ways.]

“You are not seeing what you think you’re seeing,” were the large words on the chalkboard. Judy began her slide presentation with the same caution as was noted on the board. The twenty-five or so teen girls and moms had enjoyed last month’s program emphasizing the importance of girls in technology, and knew this one also would be great.

But then the college pre-med student shifted her slides and discussion to the subject she most enjoyed talking about-- – God’s design of the human body. Her presentation told just a bit about how the eye’s abilities are used in incredible ways by the brain. Everyone was fascinated as she progressed from slide to slide.

Again, the future doctor repeated the words written on the chalkboard, and promised to give an explanation soon: “You are not seeing what you think you’re seeing.”

God has put such purpose and power into our bodies that medical scientists will never understand all the potential that is there: *“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” (Psalm 139:14)*

Her next question startled almost everyone in the room --- “How many of you would like an ice cream cone to eat?” Almost without thinking, nearly every hand shot up. Dena looked at her own upraised hand in surprise, then pulled it down. Why had she raised it? She didn’t even like ice cream. Yet, something had made her respond. Judy quoted the words on the board once again, and then said she had been telling the audience over and over that they wanted ice cream.

Going back to the first slide, Judy took the pointer and outlined an ice cream cone, skillfully hidden in the image of a tree. Then skipping a few slides, she traced out another cone in an array of perfume bottles, and then shared a few more examples. Judy then explained how Satan leads devious people to plant suggestions in our minds that don’t honor God. One of the mothers raised her hand, and asked how people can protect themselves from such evil influences.

Almost everyone in the room began taking notes as Judy put guidelines on the blackboard to guard against Satan’s attacks on God-honoring thoughts. Some of the guidelines are used in other areas of our lives. Here are a few. Can you think of others?

- We need to watch the sources of videos, magazines, and downloaded pictures that come into our homes.
 - Don’t let down your guard for a minute. I Peter 5:8 teaches us, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.”*
 - Plan ahead of time the things you want to investigate. Have an “escape plan” ready to be used when things seem to be wrong.
 - Be sober-minded in dealing with the things we do know about, and God will take care of all the sinful intrusions we don’t notice. Loving, caring parents are God’s special protection for their children.
- (end)

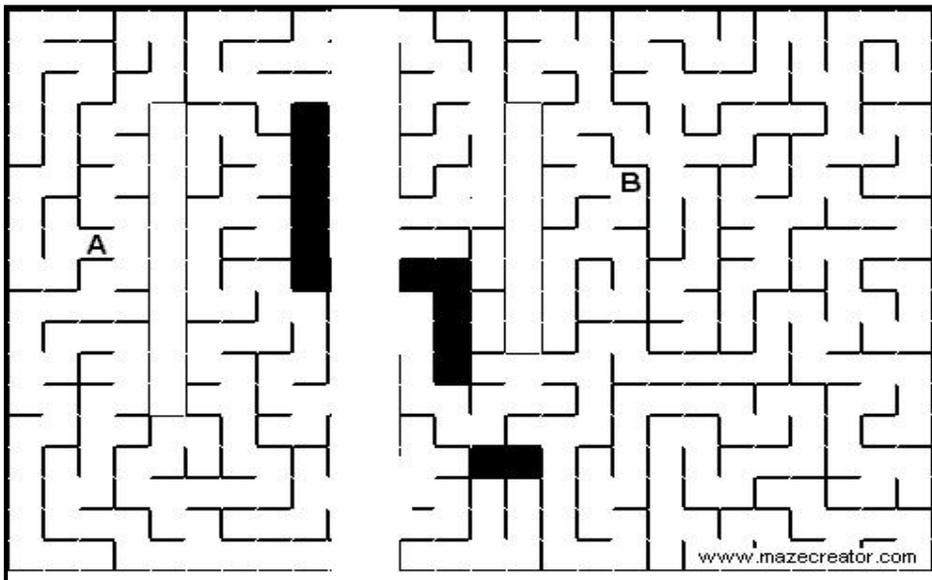


Jump the Ditch – Fun With Friends Page

Fun With Friends pages are all designed to do just that – have fun with your friends as you use your computer. They are even more fun when you them and your testimony with others.

Part of the fun is taking simple things that are available and changing them using your imagination. You might scan a maze into your computer. Then use any simple graphics program to electronically cut a section out of the center. That will make things just a bit tougher. Call the portion you cut out, the Ditch. You can even designate A and B to be two objects that go well together. Be creative.

If you don't have a computer you may wish to purchase a puzzle book and cut the center out of one of the mazes.



Have your friend think of two things that should be linked together. These could be a Bible and church, or a grown up and a hug. These might also be a fish and a worm. Another great pair that could be used in the puzzle is you and your friend. We all need friends to help us share our fun times and those challenging times too.

There are many friends mentioned in the Bible. You can read about the close friendship of David and Jonathan starting in I Samuel 18:1.

But the best Friend anyone can ever have though, is God's own Son, Jesus Christ. He wants to share our good times and those tough ones too. Proverbs 18:24 says, "*A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*" That Friend is none other than Jesus, who wants you to invite Him into your heart to stay.

(end)