

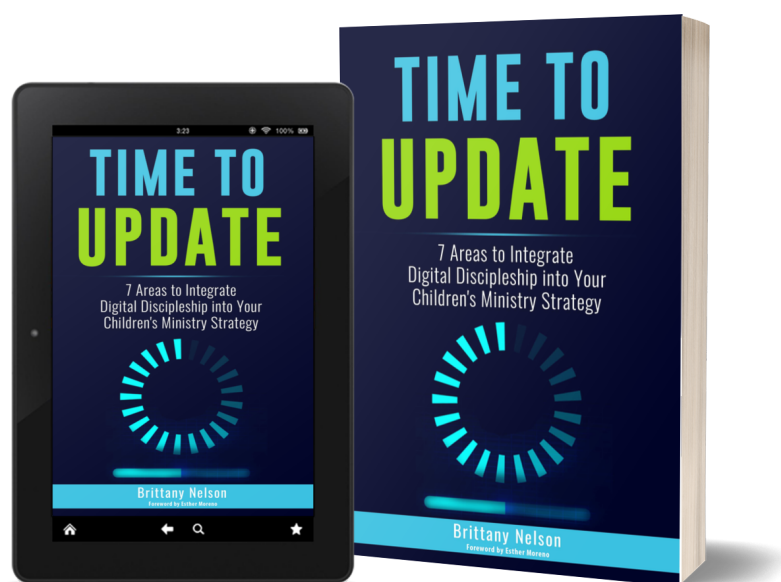


DIGITAL TOOLS FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

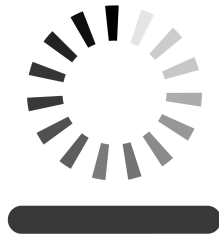
Use the quick list below and the full list that follows to explore a new digital tool for your ministry. The full list comes from chapter 10 of my book, [Time to Update: 7 Areas to Integrate Digital Discipleship into Your Children's Ministry Strategy](#). Learn more about the book and order your own copy [here](#).

- Church Management Software (ChMS):
 - Examples: Planning Center, Church Community Builder, Elvanto
 - Functionality: Membership management, event planning, volunteer coordination, communication.
- Presentation Software:
 - Examples: ProPresenter, MediaShout, EasyWorship
 - Functionality: Creating and displaying multimedia presentations, worship lyrics, and announcements.
- Online Giving Platforms:
 - Examples: Tithe.ly, Planning Center Giving, Pushpay
 - Functionality: Facilitating secure online donations and managing giving records.
- Communication and Collaboration Tools:
 - Examples: Slack, Microsoft Teams, Trello
 - Functionality: Streamlining communication, coordinating volunteers, and managing projects.
- Social Media Management:
 - Examples: Hootsuite, Buffer, Later
 - Functionality: Scheduling posts, managing multiple social media accounts, and analyzing engagement.
- Streaming Platforms:
 - Examples: YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook Live
 - Functionality: Broadcasting live events, services, and creating an online presence.
- Bible Study and Curriculum Resources:
 - Examples: YouVersion Bible App, RightNow Media, Open Network
 - Functionality: Access to a variety of Bible translations, study plans, and curriculum resources.
- Virtual Meeting Platforms:
 - Examples: Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet
 - Functionality: Facilitating virtual meetings, Bible studies, and online gatherings.
- Children's Ministry/Family Apps:
 - Examples: Bible App for Kids, Superbook Kids Bible, Guardians of Ancora
 - Functionality: Interactive and age-appropriate content for children, families, or parents to use at home.

- Email Marketing:
 - Examples: Mailchimp, Constant Contact, Sendinblue
 - Functionality: Sending newsletters, event updates, and targeted communications.
- Online Survey Tools:
 - Examples: SurveyMonkey, Google Forms, Typeform
 - Functionality: Gathering feedback, conducting surveys, and assessing the needs of the congregation.
- Security and Child Check-In:
 - Examples: KidCheck, Secure Children Check-In, ChurchSuite
 - Functionality: Ensuring the safety of children through secure check-in systems and volunteer background checks.



To discover more resources to help you navigate digital discipleship in your children's ministry, check out the book *Time to Update* [here](#).



Chapter 10

Bonus Tools & Ideas

USE THIS BONUS CHAPTER as a quick reference guide for when you're looking for a digital tool to help you streamline a particular aspect of your ministry. This list includes all the tools mentioned throughout the book and others I learned about through various interviews and conversations. In May 2021, I asked children's ministry leaders to share apps or digital tools they can't live without in ministry, and I also included those answers in this list. The list was most recently updated at the time of publication, August 2023. Head to the *Time to Update* page online at deeperkidmin.com/timetoupdatebook to order a full copy of the book.

Communication Tools:

With Families:

- Remind

- Email
- Facebook Page
- Facebook Group
- Mailchimp or Constant Contact
- Group Me
- Text In Church
- Loom
- Zoom
- LinkTree (for creating a resource page on your Instagram)
- Set up text replacement shortcuts on your phone for quick and easy text messages

With Volunteers

- Remind
- Email/Mailchimp or Constant Contact
- Facebook Page
- Facebook Group
- Group Me
- Loom
- Zoom
- Telegram – Commenter said, “It’s an app you can use instead of a group text for communicating. Not all my team has social

media, and group texts are inefficient. You can upload files into it and photos, etc. My team uses it to communicate when calling out last minute to have someone fill their spot on Sunday morning. I also use it to share wins within our ministry and any upcoming events.”

- Felt – Commenter said, “Felt is an awesome card making app! You take a photo, load it in, and then type a message and you buy credits. Felt then sends the card to whoever you’d like! I use it to send cards to my volunteers! I’ll take a photo of them in their role at church and send a verse with a thank you message!”
- Lead Small App from Orange
- Mailchimp
- Slack

With Team/Staff

- Slack
- Email
- Google chats
- Zoom
- Loom

For Kids/Families:

- Bible App for Kids – (ages 5-9) A great app for kids to read the Bible and interact with Bible stories.

- YouVersion Bible + the Kids Bible Experience – (ages 7-11) Did you know the YouVersion Bible App has a special Kids Bible Experience for preteens? Find it on the home page!
- Minno – (ages 3-12) A video streaming service with faith-based shows for kids. Subscription required.
- Verses – (ages 8+) A Bible memory verse app to help you practice and track your progress.
- Lectio for Families – (ages 5+) A family devotional (reading or audible) based on the ancient practice of lectio divina.
- Parent Cue – (parents) An app designed for parents to help raise kids with faith and character.
- Bible Coloring – (ages 3+) Simple Bible story coloring pages.
- God For Kids – (ages 5-12) This app teaches kids about God and His character. It has 31 interactive, child-centered devotions to spark discussions about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- Noah's Bible Memory – (ages 7-12) A Bible memory verse game with 25 different Bible verses to learn through increasingly difficult levels.
- Guardians of Ancora – (ages 8-12) A true game, this app invites kids to collect missing items, explore the world, and learn about people in the Bible along the way.
- SunScool – (ages 5-12) Bible study app for kids that encourages them to memorize scripture, listen to Bible stories read to them, and interact with Bible characters.
- Jesus Loves Me – (ages 2-4) Simple Bible songs, memory

game, and short Scripture videos for the littlest ones in your family.

- Bible Word Puzzle – (ages 8+) Kids read through the Bible and develop language skills by finding words in a random group of letters.
- Play the Bible Word Match – (ages 8+) Kids learn as they play in this game where they must choose the right word to complete each Bible verse.
- Superbook Kids Bible – (ages 7+) A media-rich experience that helps bring the Bible to life with videos and images as well as engaging interactive games.
- Talk About – An email subscription from Awana that equips parents to lead intentional discipleship conversations with their children.
- Collide Kids Podcast - A family-friendly podcast that interviews interesting people about how their faith and life collide!
- Miss Patty Cake’s Media Guide - A free downloadable PDF with Miss Patty Cake’s top 40 faith-based media suggestions for kids and families.

As always, check these out for yourself before sharing them with your families! Note: Some apps may include ads or in-app purchases. Check out the Time To Update resource page for a printable and sharable list of some of these apps to send to your families!

Note Taking:

- Word

- Google Docs
- Notion – Commenter said, “Basically you can make pages which house all the different notes you need as a children’s minister. Then share them with your team, volunteers, pastors, and even parents. It helps corral everything in one place. I use it mostly for my master to-do list and planning.”
- EverNote

Planning/To-Do Lists:

- Trello
- Asana
- Monday
- Sortifyd
- ToDoist

Time Tracking:

- Toggl

Scheduling:

- Planning Center
- SignUpGenius
- Calendly (for individual meetings)

Goal Setting/Tracking:

- Asana
- GoalsonTrack
- Strides
- Done (Habit Tracker App)
- Notion

Registration:

- Jotform
- Google Forms
- Planning Center Registration

Check-In Systems/Attendance Tracking:

- Planning Center (People)
- Ministry Tracker
- Roll Call
- KidCheck
- Breeze
- KidEventPro

- Tithe.ly
- Rock RMS
- Lambslist
- KidMinApp (kidminapp.com)

Social Media Scheduling:

- Hootsuite
- Buffer
- Later
- Loomly
- Sprout Social
- Facebook Creator Studio

Graphics Creation:

- Canva (top recommended)
- Adobe suite (takes some learning)
- WordSwag
- LightRoom

Presentation Tools:

- Prezi
- ProPresenter
- PowerPoint
- Google slides
- Easy Worship (easyworship.com)
- Media Shout (mediashout.com)

Kids Service Programming

- Planning Center
- Playlister (playlister.com)

Internal Organization

- Google Drive
- Google Calendar
- Outlook Calendar
- Dropbox
- Dashlane
- Totescan – Commenter said, “It’s a way to organize our storage area. I purchased the labels from Amazon under \$10. The app will scan the labels. You then add items under that label

and can even take photos of it. When I was hired, our storage was a hot mess. I didn't know what we had. After emptying it we organized with this app and labels. Then I got a new coworker. She can easily find whatever we need by searching the app. The challenge is to return things back to the same box!"

Media/Resource Sources:

- Right Now Media
- Pinterest
- Deeper KidMin (deeperkidmin.com)
- Twelve Thirty Kids
- WorshipHouse Kids
- Kidology.org
- KidzMatter.com

Background Checks:

- First Advantage
- Protect My Ministry
- Verified Volunteers
- Secure Search
- Checkr

- Ministry Safe
- Through their State Police Departments

Budgeting:

- Quickbooks Online
- Excel
- Google Sheets

Other:

- Amazon
- Weather Channel App
- Bible App
- Candy Crush (commenter said “It helps keep me sane.”)
- Developing a Digital Strategy Online Training from Esther Moreno at <https://www.childsheart83.com/estherondemand>
- LeadMinistry.com/Lead-Digital
- Zapier (automated workflow)