

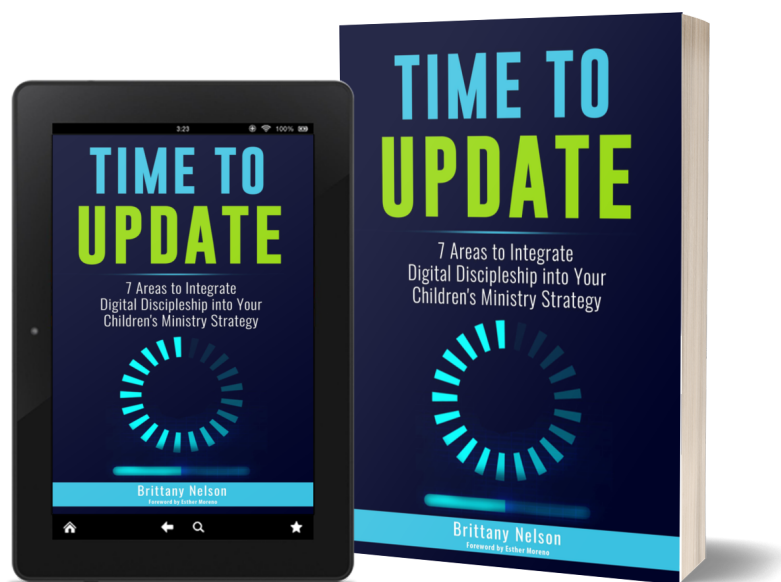


QUESTIONS FOR DISCERNMENT WHEN EXPLORING NEW DIGITAL TOOLS

Use this list of questions to determine if a new digital tool or app is a worthwhile investment of your time and money. You won't need to use ALL of the questions for every single tool, but they can be a good starting point to help you explore new digital tools. And if you can show your leadership that you've thought through these questions, sometimes having the answers can help make asking for the money easier!

- Purpose and Alignment:
 - Does the tool align with the overall goals and mission of our children's ministry?
 - How does this tool specifically support our ministry's mission, goals, and values?
 - How does this tool make my ministry more efficient and/or effective?
- Ease of Use:
 - Is the tool user-friendly, especially for volunteers and leaders who may not be tech-savvy?
 - Does the tool require training, and if so, how will we provide that training?
 - Does the tool enhance children's engagement and interactivity in learning and activities?
 - Can the tool be customized to suit different age groups within our ministry?
- Safety and Privacy:
 - How does the tool handle data privacy and security, especially considering that it involves children?
 - Are there any potential risks or concerns related to online safety that need to be addressed?
 - Who will need/have access to this digital tool?
- Integration with Existing Systems:
 - Can the tool integrate seamlessly with our existing systems, such as attendance tracking or communication platforms?
 - How well does it complement our current curriculum and teaching methods?
- Feedback and Reviews:
 - Are my leadership and other staff on board with this change? (When I introduced Google Drive and there was some pushback because some people were using Dropbox, others were using Microsoft Word, etc.)
 - What do other children's ministries or organizations say about their experiences with this tool?
 - Are there any reviews or testimonials available that speak to the tool's effectiveness in a similar context?

- Cost and Budget:
 - What is the total cost of ownership, including any subscription fees, maintenance costs, and potential future upgrades?
 - Does the tool provide good value for the investment in terms of its features and benefits?
- Scalability:
 - Can the tool grow with our ministry, accommodating an increasing number of children or expanding program offerings?
 - How easily can the tool be scaled up or down based on our changing needs?
- Long-Term Viability:
 - Are there any indications that the tool might become obsolete or face significant changes in the near future?



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