

Companion Resources

The Necessary Evil: AI for Everyday Christian Life

Book 3

This companion packet contains frameworks, checklists, worksheets, and boundary resources from the book. Print this packet for personal or household use.

How to Use This Packet

These resources summarize key frameworks from the book. They are not a substitute for reading the full chapters. Use them as memory aids, household conversation starters, personal checklists, and boundary reminders.

Print the sections most relevant to your household. Write in the spaces provided. Return to these resources when new AI tools, situations, or family questions arise.

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Section A — Core Discernment Framework

Foundational tools for everyday AI discernment.

Prepare / Protect / Test / Remain Responsible

Before using AI, ask four questions:

Prepare Is this a practical task where AI can help me prepare without replacing my responsibility? Keep the task bounded, concrete, and reviewable.	Protect What information, relationship, duty, or spiritual practice must be protected before I type anything? Share less, redact more, and keep sensitive matters with appropriate people.
Test What needs to be checked before I trust, send, teach, act on, or share this output? Fluent language is not the same as truth, wisdom, sincerity, or accuracy.	Remain Responsible What responsibility remains mine before God and neighbor? A tool may assist a duty, but it cannot carry the duty.

When you open the tool

At the moment of use, the framework becomes six practical steps:

1. **Aim** — Name the faithful, tool-sized task.
2. **Safe Context** — Share only what is safe; withhold the rest.
3. **Boundaries** — Tell the tool what it must not do.
4. **Useful Output** — Ask for a draft, list, or structure you can review.
5. **Review** — Verify before trusting, sending, or acting.
6. **Faithful Action** — Do what remains yours before God and neighbor.

Quick reminder

AI may help with drafts, lists, summaries, questions, plans, and organization.

AI must remain under Scripture, prayer, conscience, truthful speech, family responsibility, church community, wise counsel, qualified care, and embodied love.

Before you continue

1. Am I using AI for preparation or authority?
2. Am I protecting people and private information?
3. Am I willing to verify and revise the output?
4. Am I still owning the decision, message, relationship, or action?

AI Can Prepare / AI Cannot Replace

AI can help prepare. AI cannot replace.

AI can prepare	AI cannot replace
A draft to revise	Truthful speech owned by the human
A list to review	Real stewardship and wise judgment
Questions to ask	Scripture, prayer, conscience, and counsel
A summary to verify	Reading, understanding, and obedience
A schedule or plan	Family responsibility and embodied love
A tone option	Sincere repentance, apology, encouragement, or reconciliation
A study aid	Scripture's authority and careful interpretation
A prayer-list structure	Actual prayer before God
A message asking for help	Appropriate human, pastoral, professional, or emergency help where needed

Boundary statement

Use AI for practical preparation when the task is bounded, reviewable, and under human judgment.

Do not use AI as Scripture, God's voice, final interpreter, conscience, pastor, priest, elder, parent, counselor, mediator, moral permission giver, secret spiritual confidant, or substitute for embodied love. What belongs with God, Scripture, a trusted person, or your own conscience must stay there.

Reader check

1. What did AI help me prepare?
2. What must I personally verify?
3. What responsibility cannot be transferred to the tool?
4. Which person, source, authority, or act of obedience must not be replaced?

Use-Case Risk Tier Quick Reference

A tier is not a permission slip. It is a wisdom signal.

Tier	What AI may do	What to protect	What to test	Stop reminder	Name
1	Help draft, list, organize, brainstorm low-risk tasks.	Avoid unnecessary personal details.	Check whether output fits real life.	Keep people involved where relationships matter.	Ordinary Practical Use
2	Help prepare work, learning, communication, decision notes.	Protect school, work, family, financial, health, church details.	Verify facts, policies, sources, tone, disclosure, integrity.	Do not use AI to deceive, plagiarize, or avoid learning.	Use With Caution
3	Only prepare, organize, or suggest questions for sensitive matters.	Protect confession-like details, sensitive prayer, children, family conflict.	Check Scripture in context, verify theology, review tone.	Scripture, prayer, conscience, community, counsel remain central.	Strict Boundary Use
4	AI should not guide. If used at all, only organize a brief request for help.	Do not entrust crisis, abuse, medical, legal, emergency details to AI.	Do not treat AI output as qualified care or guidance.	Stop using AI as the guide. Seek human help.	Human Help Required

Reader reminder

1. What kind of use is this?
2. What could be harmed if the output is wrong?
3. What should not be entered into the tool?
4. What must be verified before I act?
5. Who needs to be involved instead of AI?

AI Use Boundary Questions

Before you prompt

Prepare

- ☐ Is this a practical, bounded task?
- ☐ Am I asking AI to help me prepare, or to decide for me?
- ☐ Can I review and revise the output before using it?

Protect

- ☐ What names, details, documents, private matters, or sensitive information should I leave out?
- ☐ Can I ask this in a non-identifying way?
- ☐ Does this belong first with a person, source, authority, or qualified helper instead of AI?

Test

- ☐ What claims will need verification?
- ☐ What policies, expectations, or disclosure rules might apply?
- ☐ Could the output sound wise, confident, or spiritual while still being wrong?

Remain responsible

- ☐ What responsibility remains mine?
- ☐ Who may be affected by my use of this output?
- ☐ What would love, truthfulness, and wisdom require before I act?

Six steps at the moment of use

When you open the tool, walk through these briefly:

1. What is my **aim**?
2. What **context is safe** to share?
3. What **boundaries** do I need to set?
4. What **output** would help me prepare?
5. What must I **review or verify**?
6. What **faithful action** remains mine?

After AI answers

1. Is anything factually wrong, unsupported, or too confident?
2. Did AI invent, distort, or oversimplify anything?
3. Is the tone truthful, sincere, and non-manipulative?
4. Does this output respect human dignity?

5. Did AI move beyond preparation into authority?
6. What should I revise, reject, verify, or take to a human?
7. Am I avoiding a responsibility that belongs to me?

Section B — Household and Family Tools

Resources for household conversations and shared boundaries.

Household AI Rule Grid

Our household wants AI to remain a limited tool. We will use it for practical preparation where it serves truthfulness, stewardship, family responsibility, learning, work, creativity, and love. We will not let it replace Scripture, prayer, conscience, parents, church community, wise counsel, qualified help, or embodied care.

Whenever someone opens a tool, the household habit is: name the aim, share only safe context, set boundaries, ask for useful output, review before acting, and take faithful action yourself.

Category	What this means	Possible examples	What we protect	Who reviews
Ordinary Practical Use	AI may help with low-risk drafts, lists, plans, and organization.	Meal ideas, grocery lists, packing lists, chore ideas, simple schedules, non-sensitive brainstorming.	Names, private schedules, child details, financial details, health details, family conflict.	Adult or responsible user reviews before use.
Use With Caution	AI may help, but privacy, truthfulness, policy, or integrity risks are meaningful.	Homework support, work messages, decision preparation, meeting notes, public posts, family conversation preparation.	School rules, employer information, private family matters, confidential church or work details.	Parent, spouse, supervisor, teacher, pastor/church leader, or trusted human as appropriate.
Strict Boundary Use	AI may only prepare, organize, or suggest questions. It must not become spiritual, moral, relational, or emotional authority.	Bible study questions, prayer-list organization, hard conversation preparation, theological summaries to verify, reflection questions.	Confession-like material, private spiritual struggles, sensitive prayer requests, children's struggles, relational conflict details.	Human review required; Scripture, prayer, conscience, church community, and wise counsel remain central.
Human Help Required	AI must not guide the situation. Involve the right human help.	Crisis, danger, abuse, self-harm concerns, child safety concerns, medical or legal threats, severe distress, addiction crisis, pastoral counseling needs, major moral complexity.	Do not enter sensitive details into AI as though the tool is the helper, counselor, pastor, investigator, doctor, lawyer, or decision-maker.	Reach a trusted human — pastor, professional, parent, or emergency responder.

Household fill-in

Our household will use AI for:

Our household will use AI only with caution for:

Our household will not use AI as authority or substitute for:

When AI must be set aside, we will seek help from:

Our next household review date:

Family AI Conversation Guide

Our family wants to talk about AI with calm wisdom, not panic and not carelessness. AI may be useful, but it is not a parent, pastor, counselor, secret friend, teacher in the full human sense, or spiritual guide. Adults remain responsible for guiding children and teens.

Conversation 1: What AI can and cannot be

Discuss:

1. What are some ways AI might help with ordinary tasks?
2. Why can AI sound confident and still be wrong?
3. Why is a chatbot not the same as a friend, parent, teacher, pastor, or counselor?
4. Why should spiritual-sounding AI text never be treated as God's voice?

Family notes:

Conversation 2: What we do not put into AI

Discuss what should stay private:

- full names, addresses, schools, schedules, photos, and identifying details;
- family conflict or private struggles;
- medical, legal, financial, or safety details;
- private prayer requests or confession-like material;
- passwords, account information, or work/school confidential information.

Family notes:

Conversation 3: Learning and honesty

Discuss:

1. When does AI help learning?
2. When does AI replace learning?
3. What do school, teacher, parent, or assignment expectations require?
4. Can the student explain the work without AI?
5. What should be disclosed if disclosure is expected?

Family notes:

Conversation 4: Spiritual boundaries

Discuss:

1. Why is AI not Scripture or God's voice?
2. Why is an AI-generated prayer not a replacement for praying?
3. Why should Bible claims, theological summaries, and spiritual advice be checked with Scripture, trusted resources, and wise people?
4. Who should a child or teen talk to when a question is too important or too private for AI?

Reminder: Scripture, prayer, wise counsel, and your community remain central.

Family notes:

Conversation 5: When adults must be involved

If something feels secret, scary, unsafe, confusing, spiritually heavy, or too private, AI should not be the guide. Children and teens should involve a parent, guardian, or trusted adult instead of relying on AI as a private confidant.

Family notes:

Family agreement starter

In our household, AI use should be:

- visible enough for adults to guide;
- honest enough to protect learning and truthfulness;
- private enough to protect people and sensitive information;
- bounded enough that AI never becomes spiritual authority or secret counsel.

Our first household boundaries:

Our next conversation date:

Child / Teen AI Use Boundary Questions

This guide is for conversation, not interrogation. The goal is to help a child or teen practice wisdom, honesty, privacy, learning integrity, and spiritual boundaries while adults remain involved.

Questions about what AI is

- ☐ What do you think AI is good at?
- ☐ What kinds of mistakes can AI make?
- ☐ Why can AI sound confident even when it is wrong?
- ☐ Why is AI not a person, friend, parent, pastor, counselor, or spiritual guide?

Questions about privacy

- ☐ What information should you not share with AI?
- ☐ Why should names, photos, schools, locations, schedules, private family matters, medical details, passwords, or secret struggles be protected?
- ☐ How can you ask a general question without giving away private details?
- ☐ When should you ask an adult before typing anything?

Questions about learning and honesty

- ☐ Is AI helping you learn, or doing the learning for you?
- ☐ Can you explain the answer without AI?
- ☐ What does the parent, teacher, school, or assignment expect?
- ☐ Would using AI this way be honest if someone asked how you did the work?

Questions about spiritual boundaries

- ☐ Why is AI not Scripture or God's voice?
- ☐ Why should AI not tell you what God wants you to do?
- ☐ Why is a generated prayer not the same as personally praying?
- ☐ Who can you talk to when you have a real spiritual question?

Questions about secrecy and adult involvement

- ☐ Is AI becoming a private place where you talk about things you are hiding from trusted adults?
- ☐ Is AI becoming a place for things that should involve a trusted adult — especially if the conversation feels private, scary, confusing, or heavy?
- ☐ Who is a trusted adult you can go to when something matters?

Household boundary starter

AI may be used for:

AI may be used only with adult guidance for:

AI may not be used for:

When something serious comes up, the trusted adults to involve are:

Section C — Bible Study and Prayer Boundaries

Checklists for keeping Scripture, prayer, and reflection under human responsibility.

Bible Study Boundary Checklist

Core boundary

AI may help prepare questions, organize notes, suggest background topics to research, or list possible cross-references to check.

AI must not become Scripture, God's voice, the Holy Spirit, final interpreter, spiritual authority, pastor, priest, elder, teacher, church community, or substitute for obedience.

Before using AI for Bible study

- ☐ Have I read the passage directly in context?
- ☐ Am I asking AI for study support or final interpretation?
- ☐ Am I expecting AI to settle what I should believe or obey?
- ☐ Am I using AI because I am avoiding Scripture, prayer, study, or wise counsel?
- ☐ Am I entering private church, small-group, pastoral, or counseling information that should not be shared with a tool?

While reviewing AI output

- ☐ Did AI quote, summarize, or reference Scripture accurately?
- ☐ Did I verify references directly in the Bible?
- ☐ Did I check context before accepting the answer?
- ☐ Did AI make historical, cultural, language, or theological claims that need trusted sources?
- ☐ Did AI oversimplify a debated doctrine or denominational issue?
- ☐ Did AI sound certain where humility is needed?

When to involve people and trusted resources

Consider asking:

- a pastor, elder, priest, teacher, or trusted church leader according to your tradition;
- a mature believer, small group, or mentor;
- a trusted commentary, study Bible, or human-reviewed resource;
- the church community where the question affects belief, obedience, teaching, or care for others.

Final human responsibility

Before acting, teaching, posting, or advising someone else, ask:

1. Did Scripture itself remain central?
2. Did prayer, humility, and obedience remain personal?
3. Did I treat AI as a tool rather than authority?
4. What do I need to verify, revise, reject, or bring to a trusted human?

Prayer / Reflection Boundary Checklist

Core boundary

AI may help organize prayer lists, reminders, categories, notes, or draft language for human review.

AI cannot pray for you, repent for you, confess for you, worship for you, obey for you, reconcile for you, mediate between you and God, or become the private place of spiritual surrender.

Written-prayer nuance

The concern is not written prayer itself. Christians have used written prayers, prayer books, hymns, journals, lists, devotionals, and prompts faithfully across many traditions. The concern is outsourcing sincere prayer, confession, repentance, worship, obedience, reconciliation, or dependence on God to generated text.

Before using AI near prayer or reflection

- ☐ Am I using AI to organize notes, or to avoid praying?
- ☐ Am I using generated words as a substitute for personally turning to God?
- ☐ Am I entering confession-like or deeply sensitive details that should not be entrusted to a tool?
- ☐ Am I asking AI for spiritual permission, absolution, comfort, or authority that it cannot give?
- ☐ Does this belong with Scripture, prayer, conscience, a trusted Christian, a pastor/elder/priest according to my tradition, counselor, spouse, accountability partner, or friend?

After AI provides text

- ☐ Do these words reflect what I can sincerely pray before God?
- ☐ What needs to become actual prayer, repentance, confession, obedience, or reconciliation?
- ☐ Am I comforted by wording while avoiding action?
- ☐ Am I treating AI's affirmation as love, counsel, or spiritual care?
- ☐ What should I delete, revise, or keep private?

Stop-boundary reminder

If the matter involves crisis, danger, abuse, self-harm concerns, addiction crisis, severe distress, child safety, medical/legal concerns, or pastoral counseling needs, stop using AI as the guide and turn to a trusted person or qualified help.

Section D — Human-Help Boundaries and Spiritual Outsourcing

Boundary resources for knowing when to stop using AI and seek human help.

When to Stop and Call a Human

Core boundary

Some situations are not AI-guidance situations.

When a situation requires human care, pastoral wisdom, professional help, emergency help, embodied presence, or direct responsibility, stop using AI as the guide.

Stop using AI as the guide when the issue involves

- crisis, danger, or urgent safety concerns;
- self-harm concerns or thoughts of harming others;
- abuse, domestic violence, coercion, exploitation, threats, or unsafe home situations;
- child safety or child/teen secrecy around serious harm;
- medical emergencies, medical decisions, diagnosis, medication, or serious health concerns;
- legal threats, criminal matters, custody issues, or official proceedings;
- severe distress, addiction crisis, paranoia, confusion about what is real, or overwhelming emotional dependence;
- pastoral counseling, spiritual abuse, church discipline, confession needing accountability, or persistent spiritual despair;
- marriage crisis, family crisis, or major decisions with serious moral or relational consequences;
- any situation where AI is becoming your primary confidant, counselor, pastor, emotional support, or moral permission giver.

Boundary-level next step

Do not ask AI to lead, diagnose, judge, investigate, counsel, pastor, treat, protect, or decide in these situations.

Seek appropriate human, pastoral, professional, or emergency help.

Safer limited role, if appropriate and reviewed

AI should not provide the answer. At most, and only where appropriate, AI may help prepare a short, non-sensitive message such as:

- “I need help and would like to talk with you.”

- “Can we schedule a time to discuss something serious?”
- “I am struggling with something I cannot work through alone. May I talk with someone who can help?”

Final wording must not imply that drafting a message is adequate in imminent danger or urgent situations.

Spiritual Outsourcing Diagnostic

Working definition

Spiritual outsourcing is the pattern of using AI to avoid spiritual responsibilities that belong to the believer before God and in embodied relationship with others.

This does not mean every AI-assisted draft, list, outline, study question, or prayer-list structure is wrong. The issue is whether the tool is being given authority, intimacy, trust, or responsibility that belongs elsewhere.

Diagnostic questions

Ask slowly:

1. Am I asking AI for practical help or spiritual authority?
2. Am I asking AI to tell me what God wants me to do?
3. Am I using AI before prayer, Scripture, conscience, or wise counsel because I want an easier answer?
4. Am I entering private or sensitive details that should be protected?
5. Am I avoiding a person I need to speak with?
6. Am I using AI to delay obedience, repentance, confession, apology, reconciliation, or service?
7. Am I treating AI's affirmation as love, counsel, forgiveness, or spiritual care?
8. Am I asking AI to decide what I should own, repair, confess, or obey?
9. Is this use making me more truthful, courageous, patient, loving, and responsible — or more passive and hidden?
10. What responsibility remains mine before God and neighbor even if AI helped prepare something?

Signs to slow down

Slow down if AI is becoming:

- the first place you go for spiritual direction;
- the place you share what you will not bring to prayer or wise counsel;
- a substitute for a difficult conversation;
- a way to sound repentant without repenting;
- a way to sound loving without loving;
- a source of moral permission when conscience is already clear;
- a private spiritual confidant instead of a tool.

Better redirection

Use AI only to prepare for faithful action, not to replace it. Possible redirections:

- Read Scripture directly in context.
- Pray honestly before God.
- Turn back to the person, practice, or responsibility the situation requires.
- Ask a pastor, elder, priest, or trusted church leader according to your tradition.
- Seek qualified professional or emergency help where the matter requires it.
- Take the next act of obedience, confession, reconciliation, or love.