

A.I., FAITH, AND YOU

*Learning to Understand and Leverage A.I.
as a Digital Citizen & Faith Leader*

Rev. Dr. Andy Morgan



OBJECTIVES & SESSION OUTLINE

In this session, we will learn about A.I. (in particular, a generative A.I. called a Large Language Model) by establishing definitions, examining ChatGPT (a popular LLM), and gaining a sense of how it works, what it can (and can't) do, potential applications, and how we should respond to A.I. as people of faith in ministry contexts, moving toward a response of digital citizenship. We will also explore key ethical considerations for the responsible use of this technology in ministry.

The first half of this class will focus on learning about ChatGPT, including its functions, capabilities, potential uses, and how we should respond to A.I. as faith leaders in ministry contexts.

The second half of the class will engage in a praxis activity, offering hands-on experience with an LLM while reflecting on how we might approach this form of A.I. for ministry usage as informed digital citizens committed to ethical practices.

A.I. AND YOU (TODAY)

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements using a scale from 1 to 5, where:

- ***I interact with A.I. quite often in my day-to-day life.***

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

- ***I feel well-informed about artificial intelligence.***

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

- ***Generally speaking, artificial intelligence makes me feel hopeful.***

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

1 = Strongly
Disagree

2 = Disagree

3 = Neutral

4 = Agree

5 = Strongly Agree

Can you name three forms of A.I. that you have interacted with today?

Please write them in the spaces to the right. If possible determine whether they are generative or non-generative A.I.

A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) - a term coined by emeritus Stanford Professor John McCarthy in 1955, was defined by him as “the science and engineering of making intelligent machines”. In the context of computer science, AI refers to computer systems that can perform complex tasks normally done by human-reasoning, decision making, creating, etc.

Strong A.I. - also known as artificial general intelligence (AGI) or general AI, is a theoretical form of AI that would have a self-aware consciousness that has the ability to solve problems, learn, and plan for the future.

Weak A.I. - also known as narrow AI, focuses on performing a specific task, such as answering questions based on user input or playing chess. Weak AI relies on human interference to define the parameters of its learning algorithms and to provide the relevant training data to ensure accuracy.

Large Language Models (LLMs) - a type of artificial intelligence designed to understand and create human language. It works by learning patterns from massive amounts of text, allowing it to answer questions, write stories, explain concepts, and have conversations—like a very advanced version of autocomplete.

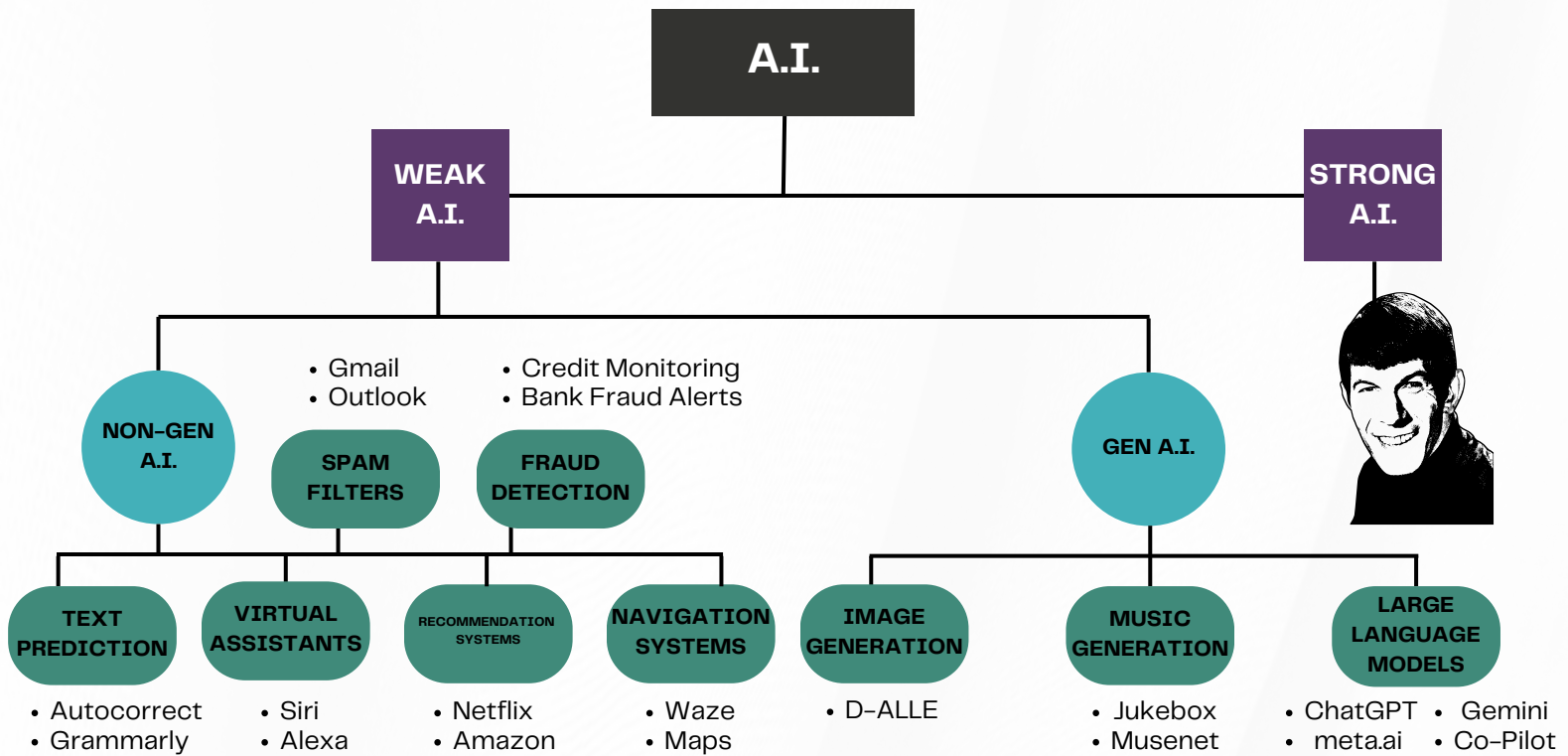
Examples of Large Language Models include: ChatGPT (Open.AI), Gemini (Google), Co-Pilot (Microsoft), Meta AI (Meta), Claude (Anthropic AI)

1

2

3

A.I. Taxonomy Tree



KEY TAKEAWAYS

“Parsing” ChatGPT

Chat+G + P + T

Chat

What it does and the format it uses

LLMs are text in-text out systems.

Generative

The nature of what it produces

The content produced via prompt is original.

Pre-Trained

How it learned (and learns) how to do what it does

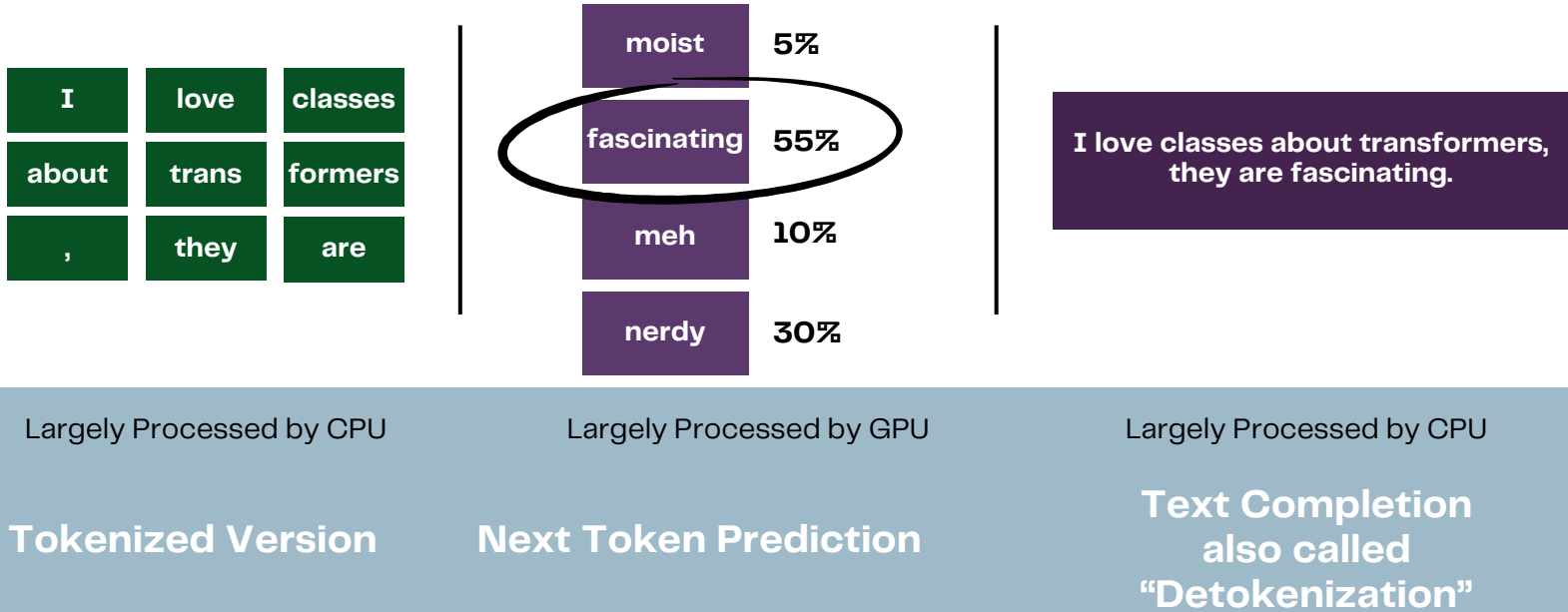
The model doesn't know facts or ideas; it recognizes patterns in language based on the data it has seen.

Transformer

The way it predicts the next word based on patterns it's learned.

It generates text by predicting the next word based on patterns

Next Token Prediction Model



IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Now that we've explored the meaning behind each part of the term ChatGPT, take a moment to reflect and describe each component in your own words. The goal is not perfect definitions but personal understanding.

Chat + G + P + T

Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer



The “Perfect Prompt”

[Context] + [Specific Information] + [Intent/Goal] + [Response Format (if needed)] = Perfect Prompt

Context: "I'm a beginner cook"

Specific Information: "trying to make Italian cuisine"

Intent/Goal: "Can you provide a simple and easy to follow recipe?"

Response Format (if needed): "Write it as a step-by-step list."

Perfect Prompt

"I'm a beginner cook trying to make Italian cuisine. Can you provide a simple and easy to follow recipe for spaghetti carbonara? Write it as a step by step list"

C + SI + G + RF

- What tasks or objectives do you want ChatGPT to fulfill (Intent/Goal)?
- In what form would you like the responses? Textual clarity is preferred. (Format)?
- How would you like ChatGPT to perceive you or itself during our interaction? (Context)?
- What does ChatGPT need to know about you or what you need (Specific Information)?

Your Turn - Praxis

Directions:

In a small group (with at least one person connected to a Large Language Model like ChatGPT) or by yourself, please complete the following assignment. Use the LLM to consider how you might navigate your scenario. As you do, remember to: **imagine the LLM as an assistant/chat partner to talk to using conversational language, be specific about your needs and context (look at the prompt suggestions above for direction), refine the output by clarifying or correcting the response.**

A Game for All God's Children

Imagine you are hosting VBS at your church. The theme is camping (called Camp Kindness) and you are wanting to find an inter-generational game that is thematically appropriate for the event. Use ChatGPT to find a good idea.

Output should...

- Have a Name
- Have a supply list of less than 3 items
- Be about 10 minutes in length.
- Be “low energy”
- Be accessible for preschool age – older adults.
- Be based on the story of Jesus and the Fig Tree
- Be connected to the theme “Camping”
- Be in the form of a lesson plan, complete with material list.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Name: _____

Supply List (less than 3 items):

Yes

No

☐☐

Ten Minutes in Length?

☐☐

Low Energy?

☐☐

Intergenerational?

☐☐

Based on the Jesus and Fig Tree?

☐☐

Connected to the theme "Camping"

☐☐

Form of a Lesson Plan?

☐☐

1. What? (Personal Experience and Emotional Reflection)

- What was it like for you to use this tool?
- What feelings came up during the process—curiosity, frustration, excitement, skepticism?

2. So What? (Personal Meaning and Insight)

- What does this experience reveal about how you engage with new technology?
- How did the process (not the results) shape your perception of using AI in ministry?

3. Now What? (Application and Future Considerations)

- What might this mean for how you approach using tools like this in your work or ministry?
- Would you use it again? If so, how could it be helpful? If not, why?

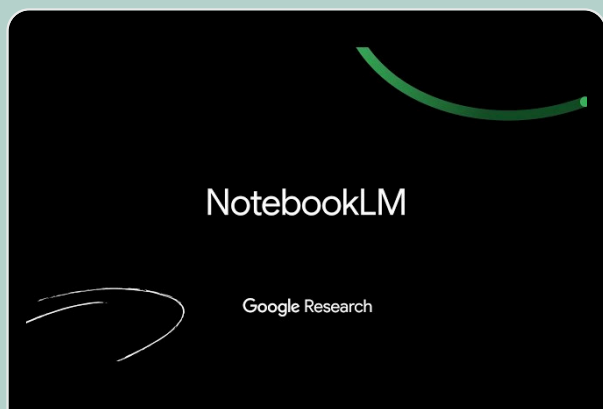
MORE PRACTICE PROMPTS?

If you wanted to try a similar exercise with your CE/Christian Formation Committee, you may want to use the following prompt:

Imagine you are late for your committee meeting and you realize that it's your turn to deliver the devotion. After letting everyone know your mistake you use an LLM to come up with a devotion for your committee based on a favorite hymn submitted by one of the members. Create a devotion, with scripture passage, based on a hymn, for the context of a CE meeting.

A.I. Ministry Applications

NotebookLM by Google



What is it?

NotebookLM is a free Generative Language Model that allows the user to add specific data via .pdf upload, linking Google Drive files, or copied text. The language model has a smaller data set than other models (like ChatGPT-4o) but is programmed to answer prompts by drawing (almost exclusively) from the files uploaded. ChatGPT-4o offers the ability to train GPTs with a similar outcome but this product is programmed to primarily draw from the user's uploaded sources and can more easily cite sources. The downside is that the program is still in the experimental phase and can feel a little "rough around the edges."

What can you do with it?

Create a "Virtual Clerk"

You might want to upload digital copies of the *Book of Order* to NotebookLM to create a "Virtual Clerk" to address specific polity, worship, and theological questions. You can also share your LM with your congregation's clerk if they are new to Presbyterian polity.

Keep track of (and diversify) your music selections

You could upload all of your bulletin .pdf files and quickly find information like music/hymn selection to help better diversify your selections moving forward.

Create a "Virtual HR" department

You could upload your church's bylaws, policy manuals, and even your state's employment law information and create an HR chatbot specific to your state and congregation.

Where can you find it?

notebooklm.google

How much does it cost?

Free. You only need a Google account to access NotebookLM

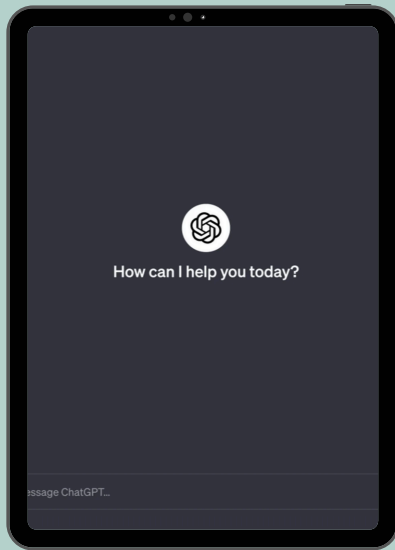
Prebuilt "Virtual Clerk"



Note:

This program is still in the experimental phase and a little buggy. It will improve over time.

ChatGPT by Open.AI



What is it?

As discussed throughout this course, ChatGPT is a Generative Language Model that functions as a chat bot that allows for text to text, voice to text, audio to text, and audio to audio interactions. Both versions (ChatGPT 4o and ChatGPT 4) are incredibly powerful and offer a lot of possibilities for a ministry professional to talk to an informed chat partner, edit their written work, and flush out ideas.

While many focus on the productivity promises or ethical pitfalls of the generative content, one of the best uses of a GLM like ChatGPT is an informed conversational partner. This function is transformative for church professionals who lack staff colleagues or even professionals who have very specific training that makes informed conversation with others quite difficult.

What can you do with it?

Chat with a highly relevant chat partner

ChatGPT's ability to have natural conversations can't be overstated. The model is highly trained and can respond in ways that give you specific and highly relevant information. This could be used to bounce ideas or fact check yourself.

Build a GPT based on the conversations you want to have.

Both free and paid versions of ChatGPT allow you to train your own GPTs and have a conversation partner with specific information most relevant to your context: like VBS planning, polity, HR, and biblical commentaries.

Use ChatGPT-4o as an editor and objective reader

With ChatGPT 4o and ChatGPT 4, you can upload documents and ask to read for spelling and grammar errors and even have your content read and have suggestions for improvement.

Scale your content

You can ask ChatGPT to rephrase your writing for different audiences or even to scale your (uploaded) lessons for a different age or to consider neurodiverse learners or even create a teachable lesson plan from a sermon.

Where can you find it?

chatgpt.com

How much does it cost?

ChatGPT-4o is free

ChatGPT-4 is paid



“Polity Pal” GPT

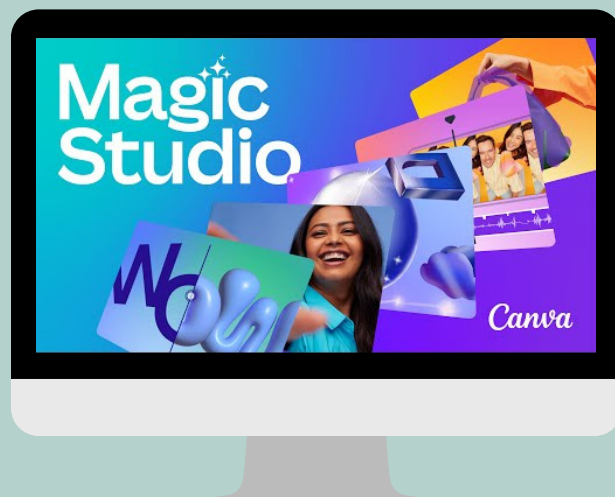
GPT trained on PC-USA polity, theology, and worship documents.

What is it?

Magic Studio is a suite of A.I. tools in Canva that can write copy, design logos/social media posts, or even create presentations. The suite of tools is segmented into free tools (Magic Design) as well as powerful paid tools that require the Pro account (Magic Write, Magic Animate, Magic Morph). The suite can help jumpstart the design process (Magic Design) through a prompt or even create “on brand” content by training the Pro-level

Magic Write tool by adding your “brand voice”. The suite isn’t perfect but it’s a great jumping off point for many.

Magic Studio by Canva



What can you do with it?

Design social media posts and logos for programs

With a few short prompts, you can generate an editable template to get the design process started. The finished “product” may not be exactly right for your context but might serve as a good place to start (template, design direction, color, photo placement, etc.)

Write copy in your “brand’s” voice

You can train the tool to write articles, correspondence, and newsletter updates in a writing style that is chosen by the user and consistent with the church’s “voice”. This function is quite impressive and is quite useful in keeping AI writing styles consistent and “on-brand”.

Use A.I. to help edit images

The Magic Edit tool in the Magic Studio suite is a powerful tool to quickly edit images in ways that, a few years ago, would require very expensive software and training. This may feel a little more interplay between the user and the program but A.I. is doing an incredible amount of work.

Where can you find it?

canva.com/magic-home

How much does it cost?

Magic Design is available with the free account

Magic Write, Magic Morph, Magic Animate, Magic Edit tools are available on Pro accounts only.

YouTube
Tutorial



How to use new
Canva Magic
Studio

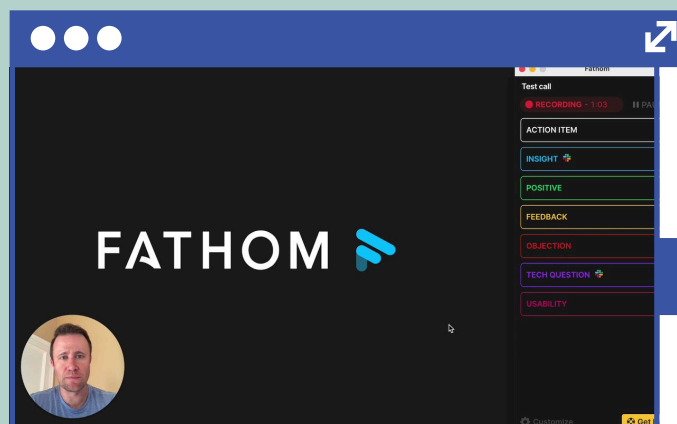
Simply Digital

What is it?

AI Notetaker by Fathom is a free A.I. note taking software that works with most major video conferencing software like Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams. The program runs in the background of the meeting to record and transcribe the meeting in real time. At the conclusion of the meeting, the host will receive a written transcript of the meeting that can be summarized and reformatted (Premium version only), searched, or even create an actionable plan based on the discussion.

While there are several products that are more robust than Fathom's AI Notetaker (like otter.ai, which is better than Fathom premium if you are willing to pay for an ai notetaker), the product is free and works well enough for committee or staff meeting notes.

AI Notetaker by Fathom Video



What can you do with it?

Taking Church or Presbytery Committee Minutes

The most obvious use of AI Notetaker is to use and delegate the program to be the secretary of the meeting. Careful attention should be taken (and minutes need to be thoroughly reviewed before approval) but the software is generally very accurate.

Create an Actionable Plan (Premium Version Only)

This function is only available on the Premium version. This will not only transcribe and format the meeting but will also automatically help create an actionable plan for each participant (if tasks were delegated).

What about in- person meetings?

Rev AI for In-Person Meetings

Most AI note takers do not record and transcribe live audio. If this is a solution that your ministry context needs, you could try Rev AI, an app that records and transcribes live audio from a smartphone. This service is fairly expensive (either \$0.25 per minute or \$29.99 per month).

Where can you find it?

- Fathom can be found in the apps section of the video conferencing software.
- To access files, go to Fathom.video and login

How much does it cost?

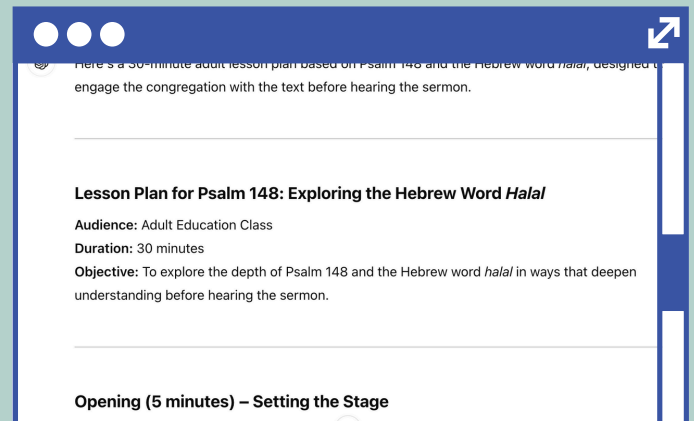
- Fathom is free but the free version only allows for the notes to be in the chronological format
- Fathom Premium is \$19.99 per month and offers far more options for reformatting and more advanced AI.

What is it?

Transcreation in AI refers to a creative process where an idea, message, or piece of content is transformed into something new while preserving its core meaning and intent.

It is not a program or a simple output generation, but a deliberate approach to using AI tools for adaptive content creation. Transcreation involves reimagining content to suit different audiences, contexts, and needs, rather than merely copying or directly translating it.

Transcreation



What can you do with it?

Scaling Content for Different Audiences

Transcreation allows you to upload a piece of content (like a lesson plan) and scale it for a different audience. For instance, you might write a lesson for Senior High Youth and then transcreate reflection questions for their parents to discuss with them on the way home from youth group.

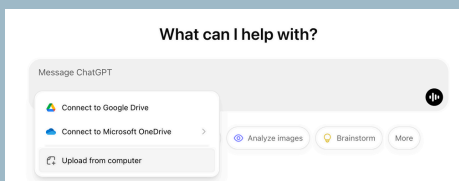
Adapting Lessons for Specific Learners

Transcreation allows for very specific accommodations (like adjustments to reflective tools and activities) for a variety of special considerations like neurodiversity, disability, or even preferred learning or reflecting styles.

A “Premium” Capability?

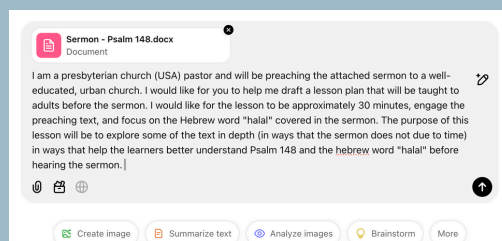
While some LLMs (like Gemini) will only allow for file uploads on premium accounts, others (like meta.ai, ChatGPT, and Claude) will allow uploads in free versions of the program. However, many of these free versions heavily restrict the file size and/or the amount of files uploaded. If transcreation is part of your workflow, I would recommend a premium account.

Transcreation Steps (using ChatGPT)



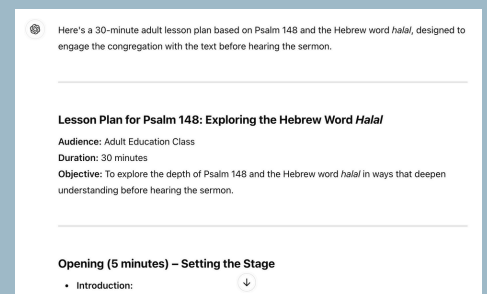
Upload File

You can add .doc/.pdf and other text documents either by clicking the “attach” button or dragging and dropping into the prompt line



Enter Prompt

Enter the specific ways you would like the LLM to transcreate your content.



Send Prompt and Review

Submit the prompt. Review the results and revise as needed. You may also transcreate the content provided.

Questions of Digital Citizenship

1. **How can I leverage technology to promote my faith values?**

a. Think about ways to use technology to further the values of your faith community,

2. **What are the potential conflicts between my values and those of the technology?**

a. Identify any areas where your values may clash with those promoted by the technology.

3. **How can I advocate for changes in technology to better align with my values?**

a. Consider actions you can take to influence the development and use of technology in ways that support your values, such as participating in ethical tech initiatives or promoting digital literacy.

POSSIBLE MINISTRY INTERSECTIONS

Based on this presentation on the capabilities, limitations, and concerns of LLMs, what are 3 possible (specific) places of ministry intersection in your context? How would A.I. be helpful? What limitations could the use of A.I. present?

MINISTRY INTERSECTION		MINISTRY INTERSECTION		MINISTRY INTERSECTION	
HOW WOULD IT BE HELPFUL?	POTENTIAL LIMITATIONS	HOW WOULD IT BE HELPFUL?	POTENTIAL LIMITATIONS	HOW WOULD IT BE HELPFUL?	POTENTIAL LIMITATIONS

KEY CONCERNS AS A PERSON OF FAITH

Based on this presentation on the capabilities, limitations, and concerns of LLMs, what are 3 concerns that you have as a person of faith? Are there ways you feel that these concerns may be addressed (ex. advocacy for diverse representation in tech spaces, setting "token limits", etc.)?

KEY CONCERN	KEY CONCERN	KEY CONCERN
POSSIBLE WAY TO ADDRESS THE CONCERN?	POSSIBLE WAY TO ADDRESS THE CONCERN?	POSSIBLE WAY TO ADDRESS THE CONCERN?

Resources

LANGUAGE MODELS TO TRY

ChatGPT-4o (free) or ChatGPT-4 (\$20 per month)
Copilot (free), Copilot Pro (\$20 per month), Copilot 365 (\$30 per month)
Gemini (free) or Gemini Advanced (\$19.99 per month)
Claude (free) or Claude Pro (\$20 per month)*
meta.ai (free), no “upgrade” package sold

**in my opinion, Claude is the most “ethical” of the dominant LLM choices*

BOOK AND ARTICLE LIST

FOR BEGINNERS

Simply AI by DK (Book)
What is AI by Dartinia Hull, published in Presbyterian Outlook

FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS

AI Will Shape Your Soul by Kate Luck, published in the Christian Century
Can Silicon Valley Find God?, published in the New York Times
Encountering Artificial Intelligence: Ethical and Anthropological Considerations by Pickwick Publications

ETHICS

Artificial intelligence is here. Now what? by Kate Ott, published in the Presbyterian Outlook
Atlas of AI by Kate Crawford, published by Yale University Press (Book)
Christian Ethics for a Digital Society by Kate Ott, published by Rowman & Littlefield (Book)
Co-Intelligence by Ethan Mollick, published by Portfolio Press (Book)
Unmasking AI by Joy Buolamwini, published by Random House (Book)

YOUTUBE VIDEOS

AI is a Lie: Cutting Through the Hype by Linus Tech Tips
ChatGPT Tutorial: How to Use Chat GPT For Beginners 2024 by Charlie Chang

PODCAST COLLECTION

aiandfaith.org/aif-podcast/

WORKSHOP RESOURCES

The QR code (right) links the slide deck, .pdf copy of this handout, as well as many of the resources listed above



The articles contained in this folder are provided for educational purposes only. They are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom they are distributed.

OTHER GREAT AI TOOLS



Synthesia.io put together a great list of a variety of A.I. tools for different tasks, have a look at their well-curated list



WANT THIS SESSION PRESENTED IN YOUR CHURCH?

Connect with Andy

email:
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Schedule a meeting:
calendly.com/andypmorgan

About Andy:

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