STAR Series

For Congregational Leaders

DIGITAL LITERACY

TASK: Young adults navigate technology like a first language—they're **digital** natives who grew up with smartphones in hand and apps for everything. As a ministry leader, feeling stuck or overwhelmed by their tech-savvy world is normal, but it doesn't have to stay that way.

Swimming in the Digital Deep End: A Ministry Leader's Guide to Tech Fluency

1 THE DIGITAL NATIVE GENERATION

Today's young adults have spent their entire lives seamlessly moving between online and offline worlds. While Baby Boomers started with TV and Gen X with video games, Gen Z grew up with smartphones, social media, and instant access to information as second nature. Think of it like operating from different manuals—and digital literacy helps you get on the same page.

2 KNOW THEIR DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

Young adults live in an app-based world where everything happens quickly and efficiently. They're primarily using TikTok for short-form content and trends, Instagram for stories and direct messages, Snapchat for quick friend communication, and payment apps like Venmo and Cash App instead of carrying cash. Gaming isn't just entertainment—it's a massive industry with diverse platforms. Streaming services have replaced traditional media consumption, and platforms like Etsy and Depop handle their shopping needs.

3 OPTIMIZE YOUR CURRENT TECH

Start with what you already use. Convert PDFs to editable documents instead of retyping from scratch. Set up email rules and templates to save time on recurring communications. Most importantly, audit your church's digital presence from a young adult's perspective—ensure your website information is current and easy to find.

4 EMBRACE LIFELONG LEARNING

Digital literacy isn't about mastering every app or platform—it's about building confidence to engage meaningfully with the generation you serve. Ask your young adult congregants about their favorite technologies. Practice different search prompts to improve your skills. Remember: you're not behind, you're simply continuing to learn.

The goal isn't to become a digital native overnight, but to swim confidently in their technological waters.

s.t.a.r. FOR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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ROADMAP

Curriculum Domain, Competency and Task Constellations

STAR Domain:	Listening
Associated Competency:	Relationship building and Compassion
Associated Task:	Equanimity

STAR Domain:	Young Adult Leadership
Associated Competency:	Resourcefulness and Communication
Associated Task:	Recruiting

STAR Domain:	Faith Journey
Associated Competency:	Creating Trust
Associated Task:	Spiritual formation

STAR Domain:	Culture
Associated Competency:	Adaptability
Associated Task:	Embracing failure

STAR Domain:	Intergenerational Connections
Associated Competency:	Mentorship
Associated Task:	Generational literacy and **Digital literacy**

STAR Domain:	Community
Associated Competency:	Authenticity and Inclusivity
Associated Task:	Managing conflict

STAR Domain:	Church Leadership
Associated Competency:	Influence and Purpose
Associated Task:	Creating buy-in

STAR Domain:	Frameworks, Programs, & Events
Associated Competency:	Learning
Associated Task:	Sticky programs and Measure and assess