

# Generative AI and Ministry: An Owner's Manual

**Key takeaway: AI can assist ministry, but it cannot lead it.**



## 1. What Generative AI Is (and Is Not)

Generative AI is a **tool for support**, not a source of wisdom, discernment, or authority. Like any tool, its value depends entirely on *how* it is used.

## 2. Instructions for Use (Helpful & Appropriate Uses)

**Use AI to assist clarity and thinking, but never to outsource responsibility.**

### Communication

- Rewrite announcements to be clearer and more welcoming
- Revise policies or handbooks for readability and concision
- Translate communication for multilingual families
- Analyze tone in emails before sending
- Generate visual supports for Bible stories or lessons

*AI helps us say things more clearly; it does not decide what we say.*

### Idea Generation

- Brainstorm ministry in-reach and outreach ideas
- Test familiar approaches ("What if...?")
- Explore pros/cons or alternative perspectives

*AI can expand thinking; discernment still belongs to the leader.*

## 3. Tool Limitations (Know These Before You Trust It)

AI has real and important limitations:

- **✗** It does not possess actual comprehension, awareness, or intent
- **✗** Can hallucinate or fabricate information ([FaithJudge Benchmark test](#))
- **✗** Can misquote or misinterpret Scripture ([Awesome podcast episode](#), watch the last 30 min)

**Bottom line:** Accuracy must always be checked, especially with Scripture and theology.

## 4. Cautions & Warnings (When AI Starts Leading)

Be cautious if AI use begins to:

- Replace quality preparation
- Avoid challenging conversations
- Short-circuit wrestling with Scripture
- Override instincts or professional judgment

*If AI is making decisions for you instead of supporting your thinking, it's no longer assisting; it's leading.*

## 5. Operator Responsibility (The Most Important Section)

**Responsibility always rests with the operator.**

Instead of starting with rigid policies, begin with shared conversations and guardrails. Ask:

- **Purpose:** Does this help me teach, preach, or care more effectively?
- **People:** Does this serve people or replace genuine connection?
- **Integrity:** Is this true and aligned with Scripture and doctrine?
- **Discernment:** Am I using AI as a thinking tool or a substitute for thinking?
- **Stewardship:** Is this a wise use of time, resources, and gifts?
- **Accountability:** Would I be comfortable explaining this use to others?



**6. Is your school maximizing AI's capabilities to actually impact student learning?** *AI for Impact* is a 4-lesson course that schools can purchase and view as an entire faculty. Create fantastic discussion and meaningful professional development at your school. To purchase, scan the QR code above.