

## WISDOM LAB

# Rage Against the Machine

A better conversation about our relationship with technology

### Discipleship in the digital age

One thing became crystal clear over the pandemic: we're incredibly dependent on technology. With family chats on Zoom, working from home, and church online, our screen time went through the roof as we relied on tech to connect us to the outside world.

And this dependence isn't new. You're reading this on an electronic device. Your phone's probably in your hand or within arm's reach. And there's a good chance you spend several hours on that phone each day.

But how often do we stop to think about how the technology we use every day is forming us? Is it possible that our technology is subtly teaching us what's good, what's evil, and what it means to be human?

As the digital world grows in influence, it's vital to understand how it serves – and violates – God's purposes for creation. Because as Christians, we all have a duty to use technology in a way that brings healing to ourselves and our communities – and communicates the gospel to our virtual neighbours in a meaningful way.

Let's explore this crucial topic, and discover together what it looks like to make a difference for Christ in this tech-dominated age.

## THE SPEAKERS



### **Matt Jolley**

**Research & Implementation Manager,  
Culture and Discipleship, LICC**

After graduating from Durham with a degree in Theology, Matt joined the team at LICC conducting research, reviewing our resources, and writing. He's the editor of our weekly Connecting with Culture blog and works on all manner of projects helping disciples navigate tricky cultural terrain wisely and fruitfully. Outside of work, Matt enjoys playing sport, eating good food, and playing the drums.



### **Dr Dave Benson**

**Director, Culture and Discipleship, LICC**

Dave is a leading thinker and researcher on the role of faith in 21st-Century western culture. Formerly a lecturer at Malyon Theological College, he now heads up our work for Culture & Discipleship. In his own words, his mission is 'to cultivate disciples with wisdom for the way of Christ in a post-Christendom culture.' He enjoys hiking, running with his wife Nikki, drumming, and photography.

## HOW TO USE THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Use this guide with a group by watching the recorded video of LICC's 'Wisdom Lab: Rage Against the Machine' event and pausing when prompted to discuss and reflect.

Each Wisdom Lab follows LICC's process of cultural engagement, guiding us to be wise peacemakers, and start better conversations in our everyday lives.

The original event took place over one evening, but take as long as you need to cover the material in this guide. You might want to dedicate one session to the *listen* and *imagine* sections, and another to *create* and *communicate*.

**Find the video online at**  
**[licc.org.uk/wisdom-lab-rage-against-the-machine](http://licc.org.uk/wisdom-lab-rage-against-the-machine)**

### LEADER'S RESOURCES

If you are leading the discussion, you might want to prepare yourself by reading these articles beforehand.

The *Rage Against the Machine* articles were written specifically to go into more depth on the Wisdom Lab topic.

#### From speaker Matt Jolley

- [Rage against the machine | Christlike living in a high-tech world \(1/2\)](#)
- [Rage against the machine | What do we do now? \(2/2\)](#)
- [What is a whole-life disciple?](#)

#### From speaker Dave Benson

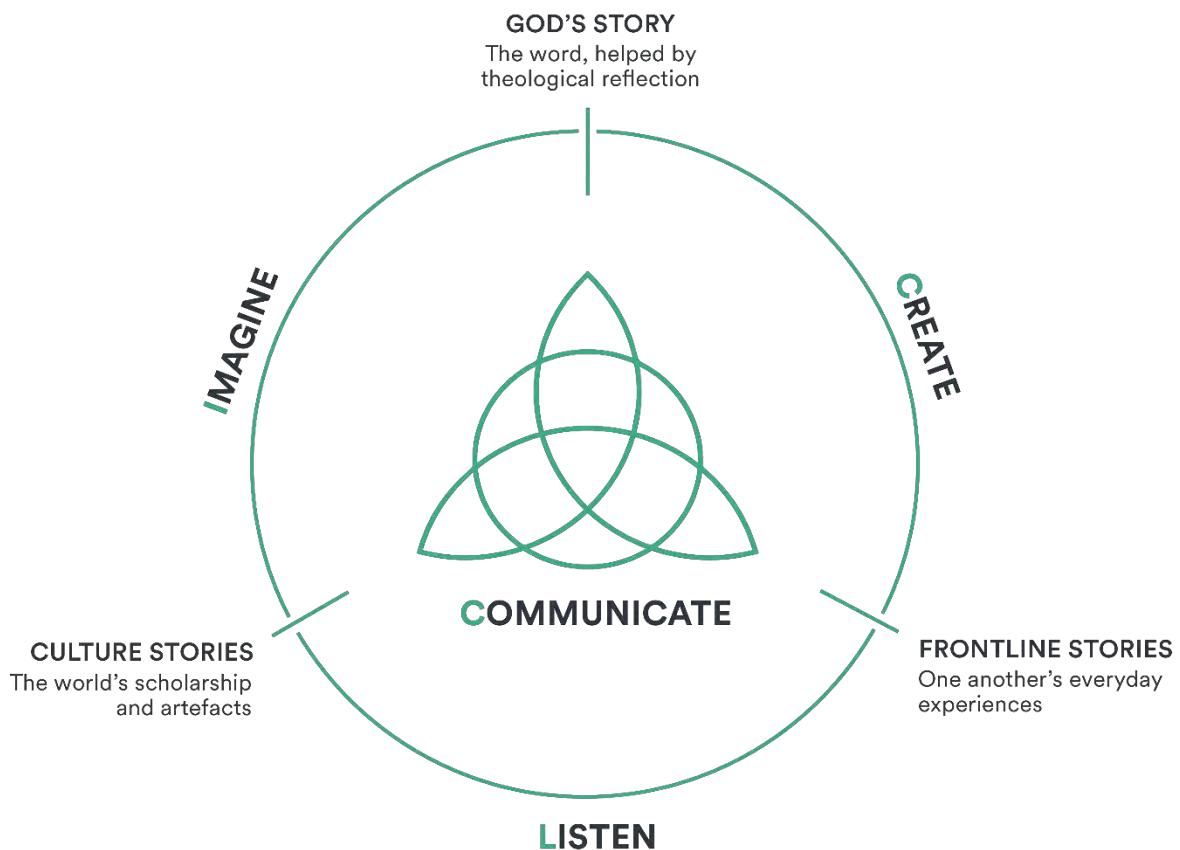
- [Wise peacemakers: How to love your culture by triple listening](#)

# INTRODUCING THE PROCESS WE'LL USE

## WATCH

Watch the [video](#) from the beginning up to 02:05.

In this section, Matt Jolley sets the scene for the conversation.



## Being a wise peacemaker

**Listen:** What's going on and why?

**Imagine:** What should be going on?

**Create:** How will we respond?

**Communicate:** How to share the good news?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Q. What fears, hopes, and questions do you bring to this conversation?  
What does this topic mean to you, personally?**

**Q. What's your favourite app and why?**

## THE TALKS

### LISTEN | with Matt Jolley

#### WATCH

Watch the [video](#) from 02:56 to 21:41.

*In this section, Matt talks about how our culture relates to technology.*

#### The three stories of technology

1. How we use tech
2. How tech affects us
3. Deeper formation

#### DISCUSSION QUESTION

**Q. What stood out most to you personally, and how does it relate to your own experience?**

### IMAGINE | with Dave Benson

#### WATCH

Watch the [video](#) from 22:28 to 41:32.

*In this section, Dave helps us imagine what our relationship with technology could be like in a world closer to God's kingdom.*

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Q. Where do you see the *creational good* in this hi-tech, and how does your mobile use *magnify* God's image in you?**

**Q. Where do you see the *cultural idolatry* in this hi-tech, and how does your mobile use *mutilate* God's image in you?**

## CREATE AND COMMUNICATE | with Matt Jolley

### WATCH

Watch the [video](#) from 41:32 to the end.

*In this section, Matt leaves us with questions we can take into our daily lives going forward.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Q. What values would you like to shape the way you use your phone?**
- Q. What nudges or disciplines could you use to regulate your phone use in line with those values?**
- Q. Which apps do you spend most time on, and how might you use them in a way that better serves God's purposes?**
- Q. Is there someone you could try to communicate the gospel to using the five-circle framework?**
- Q. How might technology help/hinder us in sharing the gospel?**

### CLOSING PRAYER

*To end the session, pray together, bringing everything you've talked about before God.*

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FROM THE SPEAKERS

- **ARTICLE:** '[Have Smartphones Destroyed A Generation?](#)' by Jean Twenge
- **BOOK:** [From the Garden to the City: The Redeeming and Corrupting Power of Technology](#) by John Dyer
- **ARTICLE:** '[Being fruitful on Facebook: Wisdom for the web](#)' by Dave Benson
- **BOOK:** [The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place](#) by Andy Crouch
- **ARTICLE:** '[Misconnection and our 'Social Dilemma''](#) by Matt Jolley
- **BOOK:** [2084: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity](#) by John C. Lennox
- **ARTICLE:** '[Social Media Is Attention Alcohol](#)' by Derek Thompson

## MORE FROM LICC



### **COMING SOON** OPEN BOOK: THE COMMON RULE

Dig deeper into how to establish a set of spiritual practices for yourself in a high-tech world. Host a transformational book club on Justin Whitmel Earley's book *The Common Rule*, using our discussion guide for churches and small groups.



### **THE ROBOT WILL SEE YOU NOW**

Explore the implications of artificial intelligence technology becoming more a part of our daily lives with the group discussion guide for our recorded event [The Robot will See You Now](#) featuring Professor John Wyatt.

See all of LICC's Wisdom Labs at [licc.org.uk/ourresources/wisdom-labs](https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/wisdom-labs)

Keep up with LICC's weekly commentary on culture, news, and trends.

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