

Helping Parents Lead Their Families Wisely in the Digital World

Technology is a powerful tool that can shape our families for good when used with wisdom and boundaries. This guide will help you set up Family Sharing and Screen Time on iPhones so you can protect, guide, and disciple your children in a digital age.

1. Set Up Family Sharing

- On your iPhone, open Settings → tap your name at the top.
- Tap Family Sharing → Set Up Your Family.
- Choose Invite People (send via Messages) or Set Up in Person.
- For children under 13: tap Create Child Account and follow prompts.
- Confirm that your account is the Organizer.
- Once family members accept, they ' ll appear under Family Members.

2. Turn On Screen Time for a Child

- In Settings, tap Screen Time.
- Tap Family (you ' ll see your children listed).
- Select your child ' s name → Turn On Screen Time → Continue.
- Choose setup options: Downtime, App Limits, Content & Privacy Restrictions.
- Set a Screen Time Passcode (different from device passcode).

3. Customize Key Settings

- Downtime: Set the start and end times (e.g., 8 PM to 7 AM).
- App Limits: Choose categories and set time limits per day.
- Always Allowed: Select apps that can always be used (Phone, Messages).
- Content & Privacy Restrictions: Turn on, then adjust settings for content, purchases, and web access.

4. Monitor & Adjust from Your Device

- In Settings → Screen Time → Family, select a child to view their usage report.
- Modify limits, approve more time, or tweak content settings remotely.
- When your child requests more time, you ' ll see a Screen Time request to approve or decline.

5. Use “ Ask to Buy ” for App Purchases

- Go to Settings → [your name] → Family.
- Tap your child ' s name, then turn Ask to Buy ON.
- You ' ll receive requests when your child attempts to download or purchase apps.

Tips & Best Practices for Parents & Ministry

- Set expectations together with your child — explain why limits exist.
- Review usage reports weekly — use them as conversation starters.
- Be consistent but flexible — adjust limits during holidays or special events.
- Use grace + correction — boundaries should serve spiritual growth, not just restriction.

Fairview Baptist Church Family Ministry