

The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

THREE **THE (SOCIAL)** **WORLD WE LIVE IN**

DISCUSSION **OVERVIEW**

Discuss and reflect on the ways our faith intersects with our social media usage.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

POSSIBLE FURTHER **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

What is your favorite social media platform? Why?

How do our varying ages and life stages reflect the variety of our social media usage?

Where have you turned to social media (vs. something else previously?) for news, encouragement, community or truth?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

What do you hear scripture asking us to do here?

Regarding social media, how can scripture ask us to hold both of these ideas in tension?

Possible answers: These two passages seem to ask for us to both not love things of the world, and also meet people where they're at...Romans 12...this can be hard.

How are you using social media for the sake of the gospel?

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How does this passage/discussion fit into the story of the Gospel?

Story of the Good News of Jesus.

Creation

God makes all things and they are good

Fall

God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.

Redemption

God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.

Restoration

Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus*

How have we put social media in place of the gospel? How does the gospel fill our hopes for social media?

Possible answers: I try to find approval, escape, love, acceptance, etc. through social media. The gospel is enough.

In what ways have we seen society's view of the gospel change, due to social media?

Possible answers: It hasn't; it's been misrepresented; it has opened conversations with some friends...

Is your social media usage helping your faith life? Are there ways social media is hindering your spiritual growth?

Possible answers: staying connected to church, old friends, keeping up with what's going on, offering new ideas, resources; FOMO, feeling inadequate, feeding my anxiety, etc.

Accountability/Reflection

Share together and pray for each other

TOOK *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

Possible questions to consider:

Consider what God is telling you stop, start, change, or continue.

What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?

Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?