



“Social Media”

Study Questions

A Day in the Life

1. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter. Can you list ways in which you think that the Bible is still relevant today?
2. Try to imagine being born 100 years ago. What do you think your life would have been like? How does that compare with your life today?
3. The Bible has often been at the forefront of technology, whether it was moving from scrolls to codex, or the first book to be every printed (Gutenberg). Can you think of ways in which the Internet and other new technologies might benefit the presentation of the Bible?

What the Apostles knew about social media

4. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter. Can you list ways in which human nature has not changed?
5. Imagine that you were living 100 years ago and you were organizing a church event. How would you communicate information about the event to potential participants? How would you do that today, perhaps using social media? What do you think has changed about the way you communicate today? What do you think is still the same?
6. Galatians 5:22, tells us to be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. How do you think we can show these attributes in an age of social media?

Is social media bad?

7. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter. Do you agree that social media is essentially neutral?
8. Because social media provides instant access and posting, does it carry particular dangers?
9. How does modern social media differ in its impact in comparison with previous communications vehicles, such as the printed book, radio, newspapers and television?

It's all about me

10. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter. What does “serving God, His Church and each other” mean in practice?
11. Are you ever tempted to use social media to ‘blast’ others and what they have done? Is this right?
12. Social media creates “a situation where everyone’s opinion is equally valid and is shared with anyone who wants to listen without any care for privacy”. What are the benefits and dangers of this?

I need someone to care

13. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter. While it is wrong to be obsessed about what people think of us, is there a right way to concern ourselves about the image we portray to others?
14. How do you balance ‘wanting to be noticed and be the centre of attention’ (which is wrong) and sharing what you are doing with others?
15. Have you ever considered stopping posting on social media for a while (or altogether)? When would this be a reasonable thing to do?

Here today gone tomorrow

16. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter and talk about some of the differences between the fixation of our society on the ‘instant’ and the permanent things spoken of in the Bible.
17. Do you agree with the comment that the most important thing about social media is instant gratification? Why (or why not)?
18. What are the differences (if any) between people sharing stories and information (or showing pictures) face to face in a group situation, and doing this via social media?

It's a small world after all

19. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter and try to relate it to the statement that social media “is a tool that we can use for good”.
20. Do you find it hard to keep up with what is happening in the lives and countries in which there are missionaries supported by your church? What do you think you could do to get more information so that you can pray for them in a more informed way?
21. Try to imagine what it might be like growing up in a missionary family in a different country and culture. How do you think you would respond to people from the ‘home church’ connecting with you on social media?

It's all about money

22. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter. How does the Biblical principle of putting God first and others before our own interests apply to social media?
23. Why does the Internet seem to be free to use? Who stands to benefit from our use?
24. Are you (or should you be) concerned about how much information about yourself you give away on social media?

Be careful what you post

25. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter. What Christian attributes/principles are listed there and how can we apply these to our interactions on social media?
26. How would you react if one of your friends started posting offensive material to social media? Do you think it would be better to keep communicating with them in order to try to influence them, or should you simply remove them from your social media feed?
27. What do you think about people who post Bible verses? Is that a good way to bring the Gospel to others or does it lead to people removing us from their media feed?

Be different, be social

28. Look at the Scripture references at the end of the chapter. How can you use social media to promote the Good News?
29. You may have heard about 'virtual churches', those that exist almost exclusively online – do you think that these are a good idea?
30. Do you agree with the statement that "the reason behind the extraordinary rise of social media is that most people crave the kind of relationships that we have with one another in the Church and the unconditional love that we have received through Jesus Christ". How does that make you feel towards God and towards others?