

# MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP





Lecture 11  
The Virtual Reality –  
Part 2

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## THE CLIMATE WE FIND OURSELVES IN

- It is estimated that some 30,000 people are actively searching for Jesus online.
- If that's how many are searching, then how many aren't?
- As churches, we are more driven by “likes” and “views” as opposed to working towards creating experiences that fosters connection with others.
- Conversation is vital to discipleship, especially in the context of teaching that helps people understand and apply biblical truth to their lives.



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## THE CLIMATE WE FIND OURSELVES IN

- There are a number of reasons why many resist the move to an online church. Some of the reasons are as follows:
  - a. It's not “real” church.
  - b. Real connections happen “face-to-face”.
  - c. Fear of being vulnerable.
  - d. Trolls, cancel culture, rude and offensive people, attacks, provocateurs.



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## LIVE STREAMING AND DISCIPLESHIP

1. It builds community, not destroy it.
2. The majority of our media has switched to video from audio.
3. It's far easier for people to invite someone to watch the stream, as opposed to inviting them to church.
4. The technology allows for less volunteers than before.
5. You get more traction beyond the Sunday morning.
6. A greater network of connections.
7. It expanded our network for receiving offerings.



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## LIVE STREAMING AND DISCIPLESHIP

8. It demanded improvements and upgrades to our website.
9. It pushed us towards incremental improvements and ongoing creativity to keep it fresh and engaging.
10. Have received encouragement from people and places I didn't know were watching.
11. It has expanded our prayer ministry.
12. We have an entirely new audience for past sermons and series.
13. We realized very quickly we could never go back.



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## LIVE STREAMING AND DISCIPLESHIP

A Key Question: How do we build deeper engagement with an online community?

A Key Problem: Competition is not just other churches, but everyone and everything.



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## SOCIAL MEDIA AND DISCIPLESHIP

- Social media is meant to be a platform for connecting people in order to foster a sense of community through conversation and engagement.
- There are basically two types of digital platforms and it is important to understand them in order to find the ones that are best suited for the purpose of discipleship.
  - Broadcast Media Platforms – static, one way, unidirectional, passive.
  - Social Engagement Media Platforms – multi-directional, active, engagement friendly.



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## SOCIAL MEDIA AND DISCIPLESHIP

- The following are the key platforms for assessing their value for discipleship purposes.
  - Website.
  - YouTube.
  - Instagram.
  - Twitter.
  - Snapchat.
  - TikTok.
  - Facebook.





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## SOCIAL MEDIA AND DISCIPLESHIP

- Most churches use social media as a means of driving people to their in-person services.
- Virtual, online, and social media platforms have the potential to move “consumer Christians” into “active ministers” of the Gospel.