

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 1, 2020

“SOCIAL FRIENDSHIPS”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: As your group begins, use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Would you consider yourself a light, medium, or heavy social media user? What is your social media of choice (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)? How much time (on average) do you think you spend per day on social media?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Before you begin the session, take your phone, tablet, or any other electronic device that you may have with you. Turn it off or put it in airplane mode. Use your phone only to access or read Bible passages if you did not bring a Bible with you.

1. In Hebrews 10:24-25 and 3:12-13, the term “one another” is used three different times. What instructions are given about how we are to relate to “one another”?
2. *Discuss.* Social media has changed the way we connect. How do you recognize this change of doing relationships on your *own terms*? For example, what is the difference in your giving and/or withholding approval, encouragement, affirmation to someone when you are on social media as compared to face-to-face encounters?
3. The word “consider” in Hebrews 10 means to ponder, observe or study. “Stimulate” means to spur or excite to action. How do we actually do this IRL (in real life)? Can you do this using social media? What would be the distinctive difference to doing this in-person with someone?
4. Craig Groeschel says, “Text away. Tweet what you’re doing. Post what you’re eating. But put more effort into your treasured relationships ... Don’t just do life together from a distance. Do life up close.” Do you agree or disagree? What specific ways can “doing life up close” be more intentionally done in your life? In others?
5. What do you think is the connection between “meeting together” and faithfulness?

6. *Share.* Someone said, “Clicking is clean but compassion is costly.” It’s often easy to see how compassion changes the lives of those on the receiving end. But compassion also changes those on the giving end (you!). How do you see this as God’s transformation plan to make you more like Jesus? How have you seen this happen in your life?

7. [NEXT STEPS]

This week, pray for God to help you have a biblical perspective of social media and how to give your relationships the gift of your “presence”.

- I will commit to go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- I will seek to know more about who God is by regularly reading his Word.
- I will celebrate other peoples’ blessings and cultivate a heart of gratitude.
- I will choose to be fully engaged with others person-to-person.
- I will create personal ground rules for social media and phone use.
- I will forego something for myself and choose to spend something to make a difference in someone else’s life.
- Other ways I will apply this lesson: _____.

REFLECTION

A 2010 study from the University of Michigan found that the empathy of college students between 1979 and 2009 dropped off considerably after 2000. Over that thirty-year-period, researchers speculate that the rising prominence of personal technology was one of several factors.

Consider seeing an image of a hungry child on social media. Perhaps you noticed that you are not as burdened as the first time you saw it. Why? Because you have become desensitized to it. The image has become familiar and not nearly as disturbing as the first time around. And with a click, you can ignore that photo and move on to shop for that new item on Lazada or check out that food recipe post.

When we look at the life of Jesus, every time you see the word compassion in the Gospels, as it relates to Jesus, is always represented by a corresponding action. When Jesus was “moved with compassion,” you can be sure to see action because when he felt something, he did something about it.

Clicking is not caring. If you say you care but don’t act on it, it’s equivalent to not caring at all. True compassion demands action.

For the full article, check out:

<https://www.brooklyntabernacle.org/devotional/20170207/suffering-yet-rejoicing>

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you will grow true compassion and connection with fellow believers and sensitivity in the use of social media.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.