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WEEK 2
positive platform

Message Notes
Danny Anderson

Social media can be a positive or negative tool. It's the user that makes the difference.

When we misuse social media we damage our own influence and the influence of Christ.

*"When Christians behave badly, or fail to behave well, we are making Christianity **unbelievable** to the outside world. Our **careless** lives set the world talking; and we give them grounds for talking in a way that throws doubt on the truth of Christianity itself." C.S. Lewis.*

Words are powerful, in person and online.

Death and life are in the power of the **tongue**, and those who love it will eat its fruits. *Proverbs 18:21*

The words of the reckless **pierce** like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings **healing**. *Proverbs 12:18*

Fools **vent** their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back. *Proverbs 29:11*

1. What is in my heart?

*"What you say **flows** from what is in your heart." Luke 6:45*

Social media problems are **heart** problems.

Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth **shut**.
Proverbs 10:19

2. Is this encouraging?

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an **encouragement** to those who hear them. *Ephesians 4:29*

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle. Philo of Alexandria

Worry weighs a person **down**; an encouraging word cheers a person **up**.
Proverbs 12:25

3. Is this gentle?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **gentleness**, self-control... *Galatians 5:22-23*

A **gentle** answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.
Proverbs 15:1

4. Would Jesus say it this way?

And whatever you do, in **word** or **deed**, do everything in the **name** of the Lord Jesus... *Colossians 3:17*

"Discipleship to Jesus is the process of learning how to live my life as He would live it if He were me." Dallas Willard

What are you going to say?

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...
Philippians 1:27

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY Mark 5:21-43	MONDAY Mark 6:1-29	TUESDAY Mark 6:30-56
this week	february 21	february 22	february 23
WEDNESDAY Mark 7:1-23	THURSDAY Mark 7:24-8:10	FRIDAY Mark 8:11-38	SATURDAY Mark 9:1-29
february 24	february 25	february 26	february 27
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Luke 6:45			

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR CHECK-IN

TIME WITH GOD – What are you applying that you are getting from your daily time with God?

MEMORY/MEDITATION VERSE – State it.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR - Who was accountable for you? Did they care for you by helping you achieve your action step(s) this past week?

Discussion Questions

1. Social media is something that can be used positively or negatively. Would you say the impact of social media has been more positive or negative in your life? Why?

Read Proverbs 12:13-19 (below). How do these words of King Solomon apply to your use of social media today?

¹³ The wicked are trapped by their own words, but the godly escape such trouble. ¹⁴ Wise words bring many benefits, and hard work brings rewards. ¹⁵ Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others. ¹⁶ A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted. ¹⁷ An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells lies. ¹⁸ Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing. ¹⁹ Truthful words stand the test of time, but lies are soon exposed.”

Read Proverbs 18:21. Words are powerful. What happens when people speak with no filter? Why do people say things on social media they would never say face-to-face?

2. Danny gave us four questions to ask in order to maintain our influence for Christ with others. Question #1 – “What is in my heart?” Read Luke 6:43-45. Share a time when it was clearly evident that your words were a reflection of the darker side of your heart. How did it represent the “real” you?

Small Group Questions Continued

Read Colossians 3:15. How can you use this verse to guide your use of social media?

3. Question #2 – “Is this encouraging?” Jewish philosopher, Philo of Alexandria wrote, “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle.” Share a time when your words to another person weren’t kind, and you later found out that person was going through a “great battle.”

Read Ephesians 4:29. What can you do this week to make sure your words are encouraging in order to have this kind of impact on others?

4. Question #3 – “Is this gentle?” Read Colossians 3:12-13 and 1 John 2:6. How does your level of gentleness reflect who you are as a follower of Christ?

Read Galatians 5:22-23. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus showing through in our lives. What will you do in the coming days to make sure your words reflect a level of gentleness that shows everyone who you are becoming as a follower of Christ?

5. Question #4 – “Would Jesus say it this way?” This requires knowing the character of Jesus – what He’s like, His heart, and His values. Share something you did today to learn more about the character of Jesus. How did this impact your life today?

Read Colossians 3:17 and 1 Corinthians 5:20. These passages clearly state that we are representatives of Jesus. What does this mean to you?

Read Philippians 1:27. How will the words you use this week help you fulfill this awesome responsibility, and help you create and maintain your influence for Christ?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are_____.

I’m accountable for_____, and their action steps are

My memory verse is_____.

This coming week, I’m praying for:

