

# Living Faithfully in a Media age

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We live in a media-saturated society, from personal smartphones to home-theatre sized TVs, to 24/7 Internet connections, to church-based Facebook pages and Twitter accounts. All of these provoke us to adopt, adapt or reject technology and media. This portable examines the opportunities and challenges of living in a mediated society. Is there a biblical mandate to engage new technologies? How do we discern the media messages that shape our reality? How might individuals, local churches and families foster media-related practices that are life-giving

Here's a brief overview of the session themes. While these themes refer to specific social media tools, I'm not assuming that everyone in the group is using these platforms. Each session works at core theological and communication principles and uses these platforms as points of analysis and illustration.

## **Friday evening, Session 1 "Understanding the nature of media"**

We live in a media-saturated society. The starting point for living faithfully is to understand the nature of media and how we as humans create shared meaning. This session may use a 10-minute short film case study from David Balzer's "Oh my God Project," to explore what's happening when we create and consume media.

## **Saturday am, Session 2 "Selfies just might be God's idea"**

When we hear the words 'social media', we often think of our most recent Android, iPhone or Instagram post. Could it be that our fascination with selfies may actually have gotten its start when God created the world? Turns out, selfies are very spiritual.

## **Saturday pm, Session 3 "Remember, you are smarter than your smartphone"**

It is no surprise that social media is attractive, we love it because we love connecting with people. But let's face it, not everything about media is life-giving. Attraction can turn into distraction, posts can turn into pain. That means we'll need to be wise.

## **Sunday sermon, Session 4 "What if virtue went viral?"**

What might become of the world if we chose to adapt rather than adopt what media has to offer? We have the privilege of becoming producers instead of carefree consumers. To make something beautiful of the world we need more media, not less.