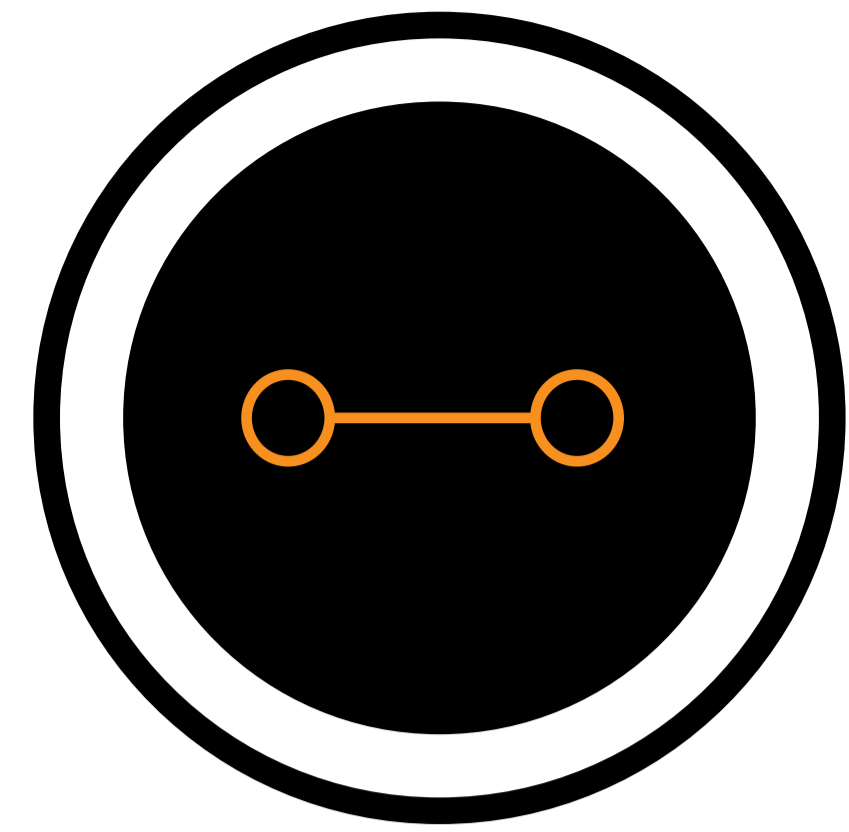




# Social Media & My Message

LESSON 3



# LEADER PREPARATION

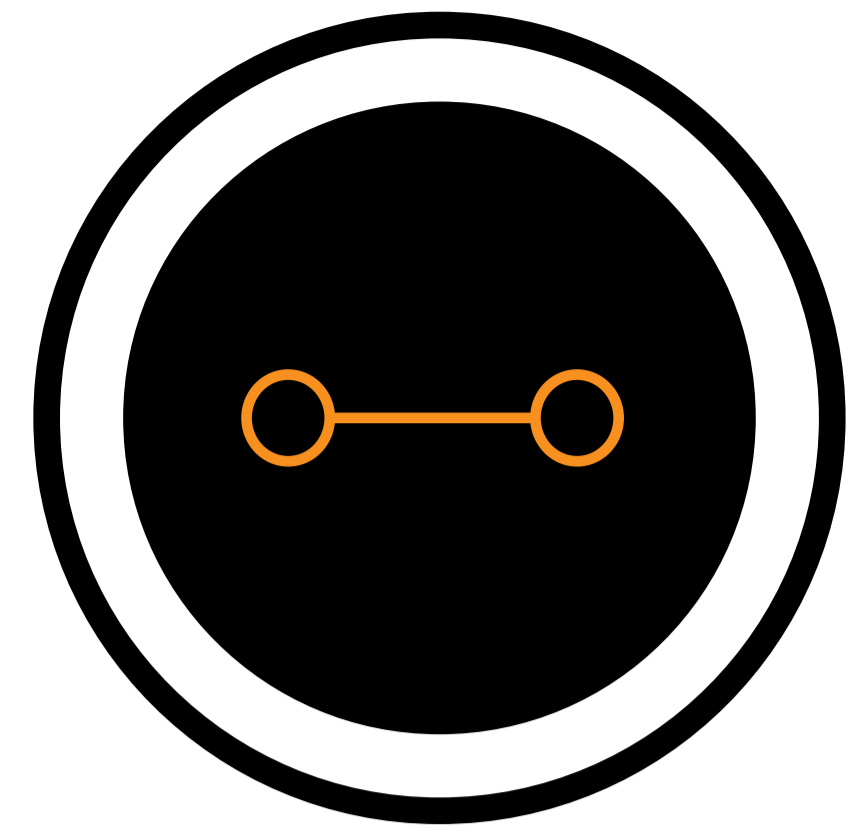
## Dear Small Group Leader:

Your students' generation has been dubbed as publishers. They don't just passively receive information from authorities, but rather they explore and learn independently and publish their own thoughts and opinions for the public. Thanks to social media platforms, this generation has the power to influence others on a larger scale than ever before in history, a fact that's both thrilling and scary!

Today you're going to explore what it means to use that social media influence for the glory of God and the good of others. You'll dive deep into our role as ambassadors for Christ. What does it mean to live out that role on social media? What kinds of content do ambassadors publish, comment on, and share? How can we use our words to reflect the values of his kingdom?

## Scripture References

- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- James 3:3-10



## Lesson Objectives

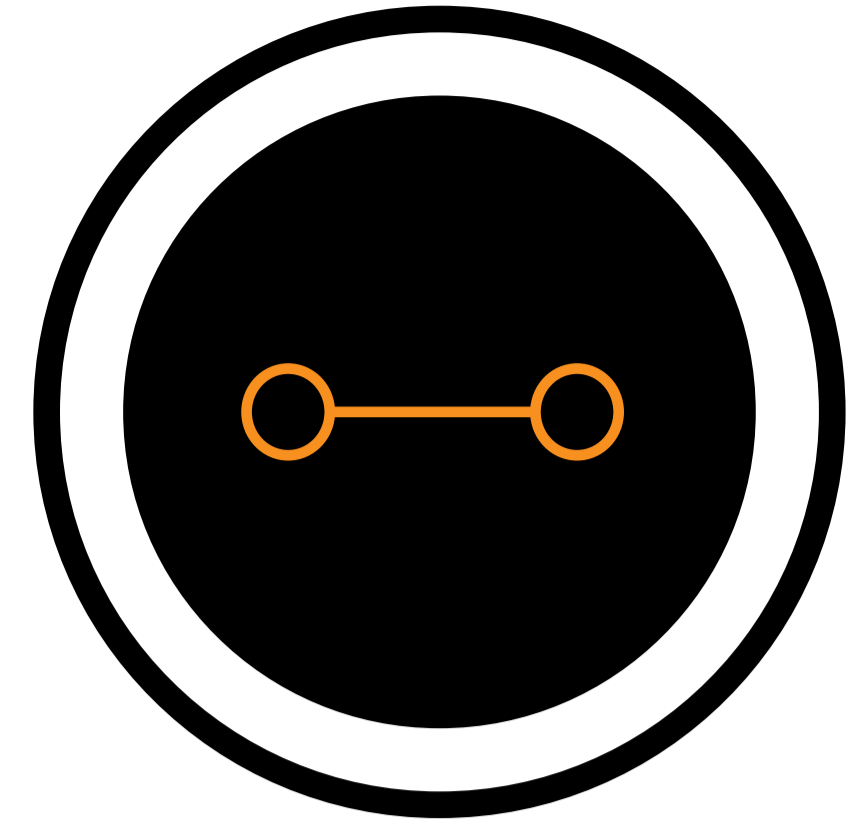
1. Students will recognize that their actions and words should be reflections of God's kingdom.
2. Students will discuss what it means to be an ambassador for Christ on social media.
3. Students will ask God for his wisdom and help in using their conversations for his glory and the good of others.

## Main Point

Because you are an ambassador for Christ, the words you share on social media should reflect the values of his kingdom.

## Helpful Hints

- Take a few moments to evaluate your social media use and interactions. Do you use your presence to be an ambassador for Christ? Do your posts and comments reflect Jesus' love and the values of God's kingdom? Take inventory of how you're doing in this area and, if appropriate,

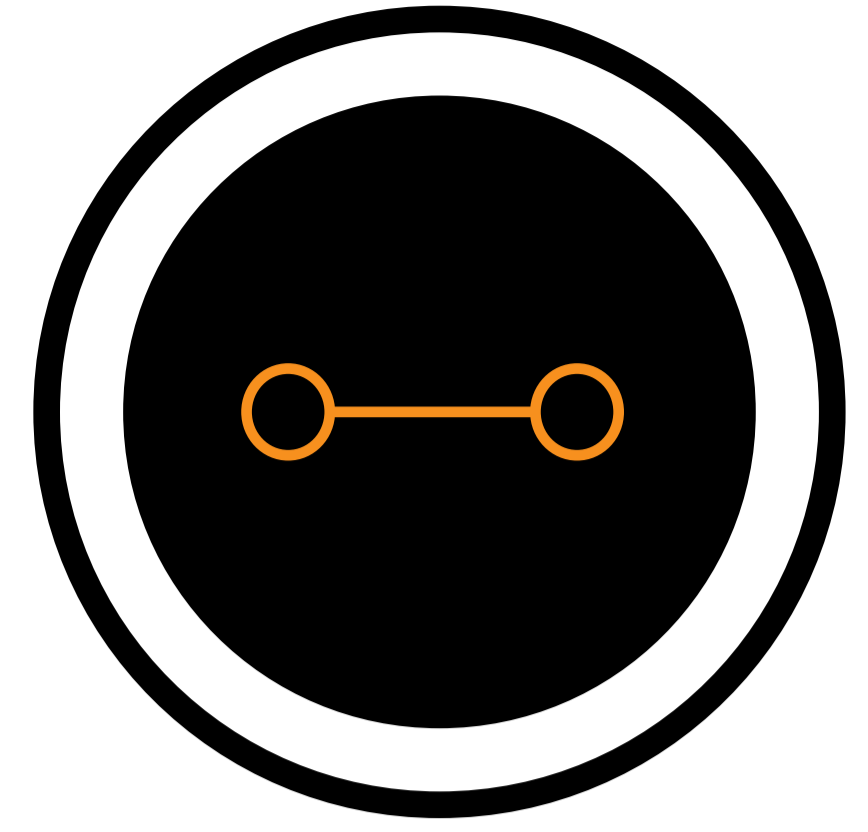


share any convictions or changes you've made to your social media diet and usage with your leaders or students. Consider reaching out to your fellow youth leaders or pastor for accountability.

- If you're connected to your students on social media platforms, be aware that you now have some built-in accountability going forward. Don't dread it--welcome it!

## Materials Needed

- Bible
- Laptop or TV with an internet connection to show videos
- A poster board for each student
- Markers

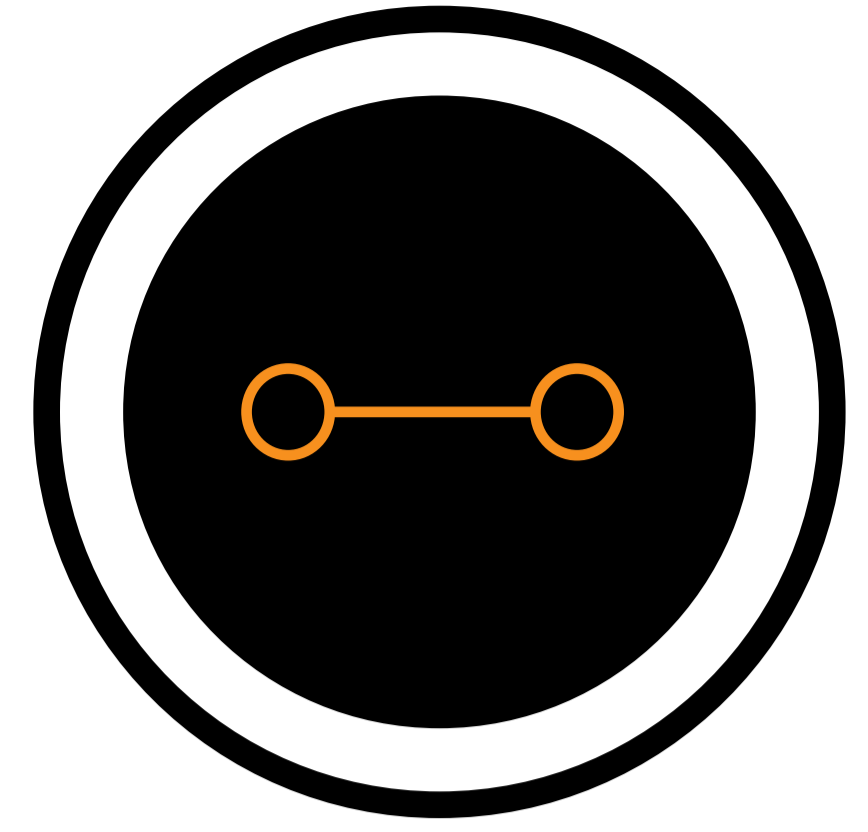


## #GODSAIDIT

Each member of the group will get a different verse from the Bible. They will then write the verse's meaning on a poster board as if it were a post they want to put online. Then they will hold the poster board up and walk around the room.

- Give each student a poster board, a Bible verse, and access to markers.
- The students are to read the verse, decide what it means to them, and then express this meaning via words and art on the poster board.
- After they finish their posts, the students will walk around the room holding their posters so that others can see them.

End with something like, “You guys are more than just people who consume. You produce, and what you produce can have a profound effect on the world.”



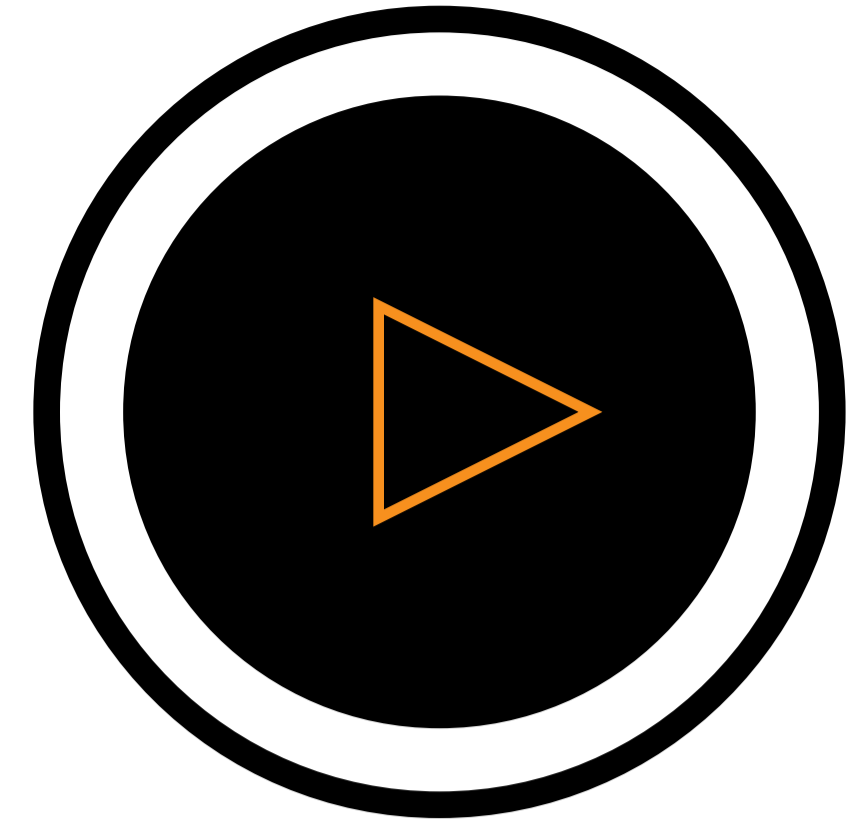
**Say:** Thanks to social media, your generation is able to reach a mass audience in just moments. Every word you post and share has the power to impact your audience, no matter how big or small that audience may be. As a follower of Jesus, our words don't just reflect ourselves. They reflect Jesus himself. Today we're going to examine how our words have incredible power. How will we use them?

**Ask** students to consider the following questions while they watch the video:

**Question 1:** What makes your generation unlike any other generation before?

**Question 2:** What does it mean to be an ambassador? How is it both an honor and a challenge?

VIDEO (10 MINUTES)



**PLAY VIDEO**



**Show** the Lesson 3 video to the large group. After the video is complete, **ask** the following questions:

**Question 1:** As you were thinking about the questions asked before the video, what stood out to you?

**Question 2:** How do you think people on social media influence you? Have you ever thought of yourself as an influencer?

**Question 3:** How does God's call to be an ambassador make you feel? Honored? Pressured? Excited? Something else? Why?

**Question 4:** What's the most challenging aspect of being a Christian on social media?





**Direct** students into their small groups.

**Read** the following passages of Scripture with your students.

**14...**Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. **15** "The time promised by God has come at last!" **he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near!** Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

***Mark 1:14-15***

OPEN IN BIBLE APP



**Say:** Here we see the message Jesus preached during his three years on earth. As his ambassadors, we are now responsible for spreading this message.



16 So we have **stopped evaluating others from a human point of view.** At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And **God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.** 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And **he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.** 20 **So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ** when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering



for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

## ***2 Corinthians 5:16-21***

OPEN IN BIBLE APP



**Say:** Here we see the new identity we received in Christ and how part of that identity is our new role as ambassadors. Now that we enjoy a restored relationship with God, our message is that others can enjoy it, too! We speak for Christ. This is a powerful statement that should thrill us and also humble us; it's a privilege and a responsibility. Do my words show others that God has transformed my life? Do I post and comment in a way that reflects my right relationship with God and the values of his kingdom? Do I represent him well?



3 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. 4 And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. 5 **In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.**

But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. **It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.**

7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. 9 **Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of**



**the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!**

***James 3:3-10***

OPEN IN BIBLE APP



**Say:** This passage shows the flipside of using our words to speak for Christ and reflect his heart. If we fail to control them, our words can also wreak havoc and cause irreparable harm. Whether they're handwritten, typed, or spoken, words can inflict pain and do lasting damage.

When hateful things come from our mouths, we tend to make excuses like, "I was having a bad day," or "I didn't really mean it, I was just joking," or "I was venting." But James says that hateful words come from a hateful heart. Behind every word is a heart led by the Spirit or led by evil. We can't give ourselves a pass or justify our hurtful words. And once they're said or typed, we can't take them back.

James ends with the hypocrisy of using our tongues to both bless God and curse his creation, people. This duality is not right, and we should fight the temptation to use our words in a way that harms or mocks others.





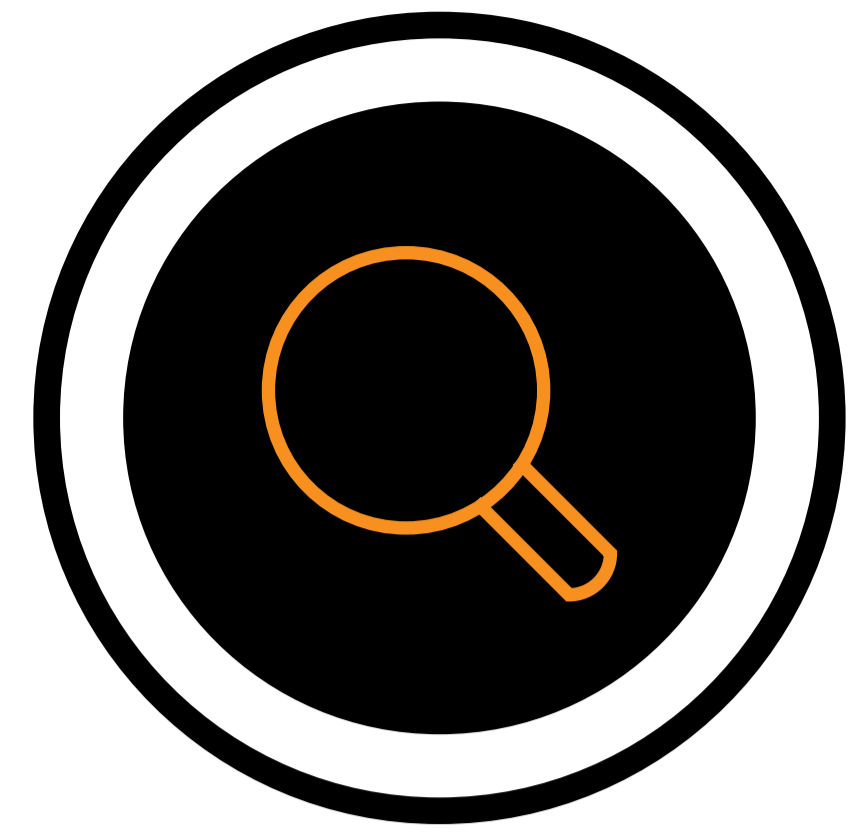
**Ask** students the following questions.

**Question 1:** According to the verse we just read, what qualifies us to be ambassadors for Christ? Why is it important to remember this?

**Question 2:** What do you think it means to be reconciled? How should the fact that we are reconciled to God through Jesus affect the way we treat others?

**Question 3:** How is the tongue similar to a bit in a horse's mouth or a spark?

**Question 4:** What two things are our tongues capable of doing? Which one do you think comes more naturally to us?



**Ask** students the following questions.

**Question 1:** In what ways has Christ made your life new or changed you? What are some ways you can communicate that to the world?

**Question 2:** What do you think it looks like to be an ambassador for Christ in the world today? What are some ways you can use your social media presence to reflect the values of God's kingdom?

**Question 3:** Have you ever been on the receiving end of hurtful words? If you feel comfortable, share what kind of impact those hurtful words had on your life.

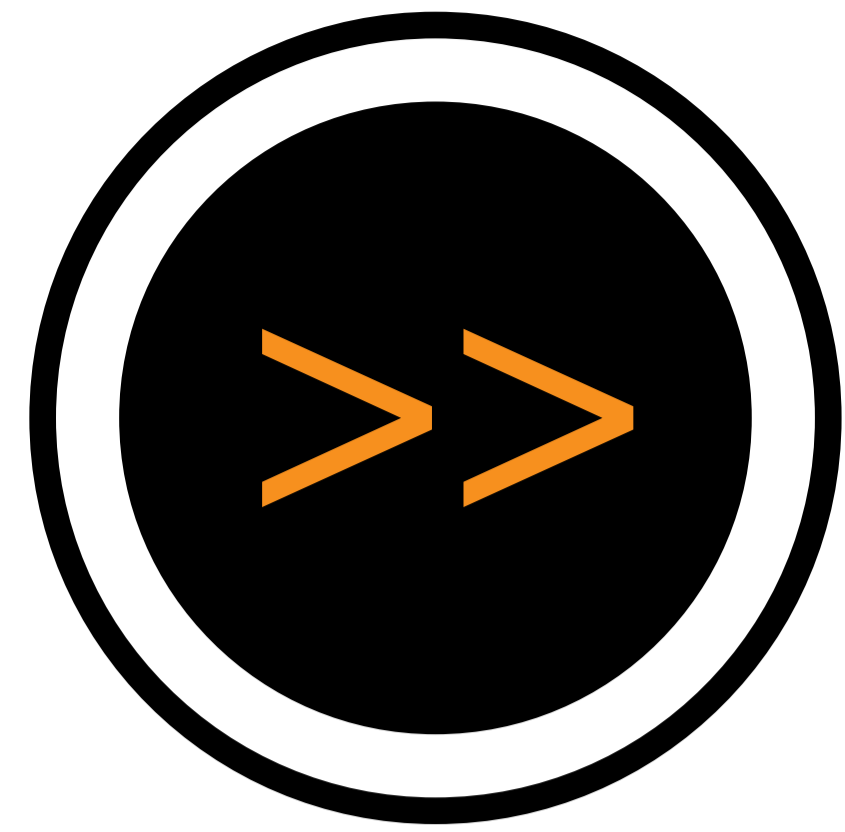
**Question 4:** All of us struggle with using our words for good and for bad. How do you think non-Christians' view of Jesus is affected when they catch Christians blessing in one situation and cursing in another (James 3:10)?



**Suggestion:** If you're able to bring the small groups back together into a large group, do so at this time. Alternatively, this activity and the remaining activities can also take place in small groups. Share the following Catechism question and answer with the students.

**Question:** What is the mission of the Church?

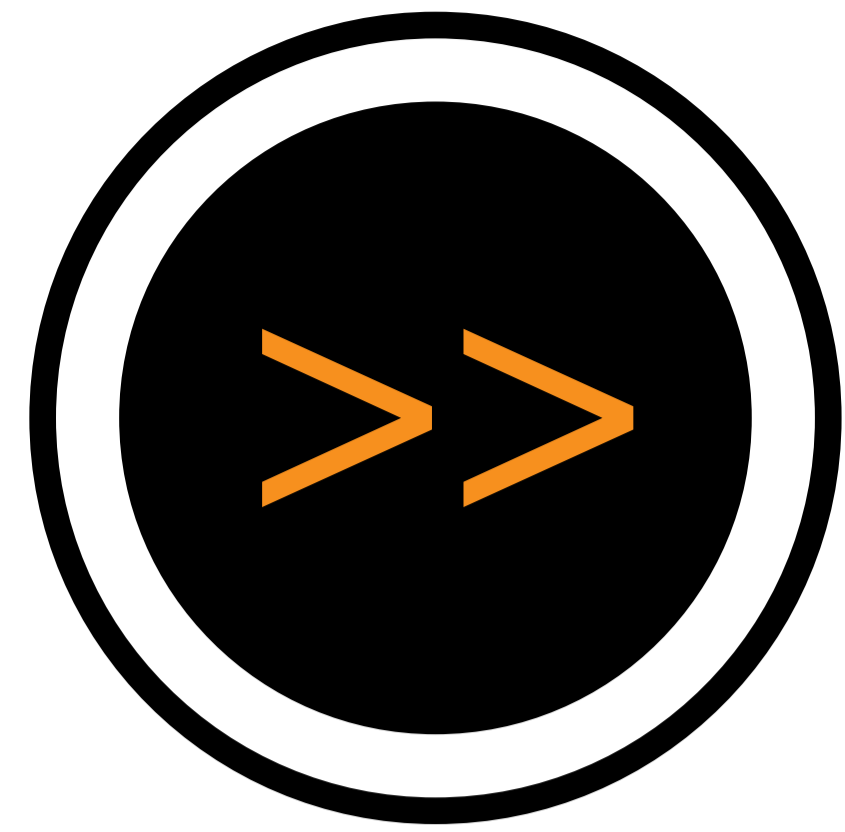
**Answer:** The Church's mission is to go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all the things that Jesus commanded.



**Say:** Whether you have 50 followers or 5000, you are an influencer, and your words have incredible power. As Jesus' followers, we want our words to reflect who God is and represent his love for the world. So how are you using your influence? Do your words worship God or wound others? Do they boast in God's goodness or in your accomplishments? What story plays out on your social media: the story of your glory or the story of God's?

**Give** students time to reflect and respond on their own, either on paper or in the Notes app on their phones.

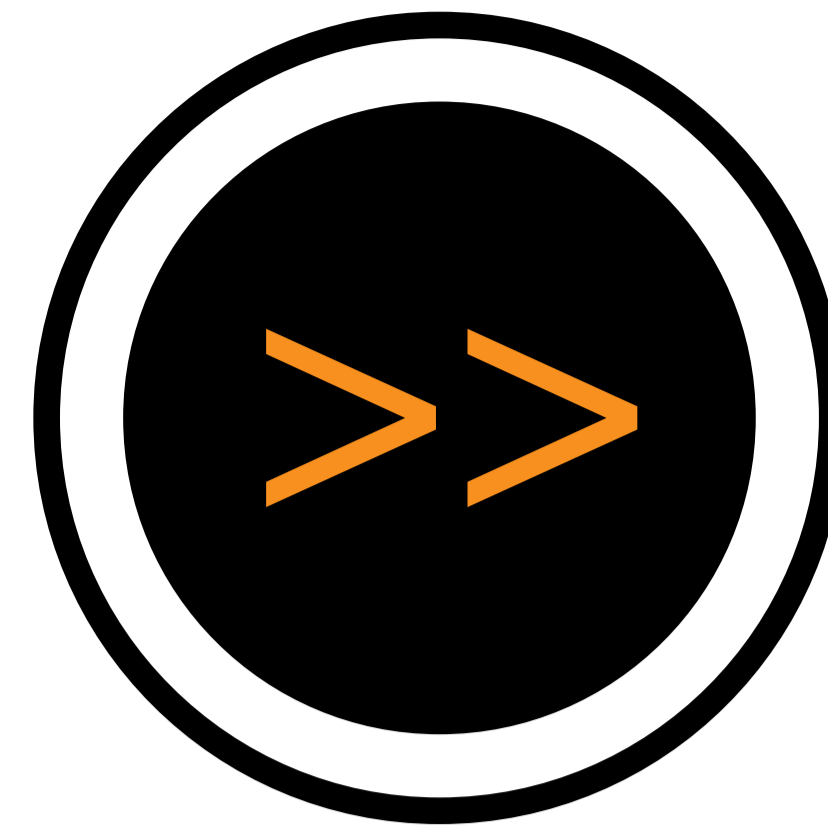
- Would you consider yourself to be an ambassador for Christ? Does your social media presence reflect the values of his kingdom? If God is revealing areas of sin in your life, confess it to him, receive forgiveness, and go forward with a heart that desires to reflect his love to those in your area of influence.



- Consider the most recent conversations you've had, both face-to-face and online. Did your words build others up or tear them down? Would you be embarrassed if someone overheard you? God promises forgiveness to those who confess their sin; receive it! If you've hurt others with your words, confess it to them and apologize. Ask God for his wisdom and help in using your words for his glory and the good of others.

### **Close in Prayer**

End this time together by praying over your students.



## YouVersion Reading Plan

Before you go... We've included a three-day YouVersion Reading Plan to engage students further in the conversation and close the gap between next week's lesson. Invite your students to download the plan and complete it this week. It can be found by searching for "Catechism: Social Media & My Message" in the Bible App's collection of reading plans.





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