

July Newsletter

With the increasing popularity of social media and the rise of social media influencers, making social media content in hopes of going viral has never been more desirable for youths today. The culture's obsession with going viral has influenced youth so that their goal for using social media is to gain self recognition. However, using social media for self-focused reasons may negatively affect youth and therefore through this series, the youth will join a social media influencer [Caleb Stewart Davis](#) who will teach them how to create content to connect with people. The youth will learn to use social media not for themselves solely but with the goal of positively influencing others to Christ and glorifying God.

Going viral through the lens of the gospel reminds us it is not about the youth themselves but how they can use their social media and life to tell others about Jesus. Our culture values going viral in order to seek validation to answer the question of "Do I Matter?" This series will help the youth recognize:

- Their validation is from God not their followers.
- Once youth realize their identity as God's precious children, they will be more aware about how they live out their life so that their behaviour is consistent with their faith.
- They will courageously share their personal story with Jesus to others.
- Lastly, the youth will follow in the example of humility displayed by Jesus through showing care and being a curious learner. They will start asking good questions and giving others the opportunity to speak and share.

This series is important because of the influence the youth has on the world as ambassadors of Christ. When the youth see influence through the lens of the gospel, they will see their motivation for going viral is for influence rather than validation. To influence others with the Good News of Jesus, the greatest influencer ever.



Week 1

Scripture: John 3:26-30

The Point: It's not about you

Reflection Question: You matter, and it's not about you. How can both of those things be true at the same time?

Week 2

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

The Point: When going viral isn't about you, you'll value consistency over convenience

Reflection Question: Who is someone who's been consistent in your life? How have you seen consistency modeled to you?

Week 3

Scripture: John 4:28-30, 39-42

The Point: When going viral isn't about you, you'll share your story

Reflection Question: What role has God played in your life so far

Week 4

Scripture: Luke 2:41-47

The Point: When going viral isn't about you, you'll ask good questions

Reflection Question: Read James 1:19. How can you apply this passage to how you live your life?

SHORT, HELPFUL, BLOG POST

Of all of the generational characteristics that confound us, there is perhaps none stranger than the teenage obsession with going viral. To those of us who have some experience, we recognize the fleeting nature of those moments. Some of us have had our own versions of them, and they've become nothing more than an interesting footnote in our history.

But, on a deeper level, we as parents understand how damaging this pursuit of 15 seconds of fame can be to our youth. There's nothing inherently evil about Tik Tok, Instagram or YouTube but a lot of us recognize that teenagers sometimes place way too much of their sense of self-worth and value in their ability to produce popular content measured by likes and comments.

Our role as parents is to find ways to value what our teens value while simultaneously teaching them the source of their value. This is exactly what God the Father does with us. He listens to us. He walks with us. He talks with us about the things that WE find most pressing and interesting. But at the end of the day, God's highest priority is instilling a strong sense of identity in His kids so we aren't swayed by the failures and successes of our various earthly pursuits. In the same way, let us do the same for our kids!

NEWS

- Summer Break, no Youth Sunday Zoom meetings in August 2021 but we will provide self-guided resources for the youth. We will resume Youth Worship in September 2021.
- Please note that Youth Worship will happen on Saturday mornings instead of Sundays starting in September 2021. You will be receiving an email with registration information shortly.
- If your youth will be in grade 8 and above in September 2021, they are eligible to register for Youth Oikos. The leaders will be reaching out to the youth with more information for registration.

Walking alongside our youths can be a challenging journey, and we understand. If you have any questions or would like to have some prayer support, feel free to contact:

Pastor Ava (ava@koinoniachurch.ca) or
Priscilla (priscilla@koinoniachurch.ca).
